JULY 1955

VOLUME I • NUMBER 7

# CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

- *Expenditures*
- *Starts*
- *Materials*
- *Awards*
- *Permits*
- *Costs*
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*Featured in this issue . . .*

## CONSTRUCTION AND THE ECONOMY AT MID-YEAR

## HOUSING VACANCY RATES

Duke University

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# At a Glance

CONSTRUCTION OUTLOOK FOR 1955--New construction activity is expected to reach $41.8 billion in 1955, 11 percent above last year's record of $37.6 billion. Prospects are that both private and public construction will reach an alltime high this year, with private expenditures probably increasing (by 14 percent) to $29.5 billion, and public outlays (by 4 percent) to $12.3 billion. The projected $14.6 billion of expenditures on privately owned new dwelling-unit construction in 1955 is about a fifth higher than in the previous peak year 1954. Other types of construction strongly influenced by the growth and movement of population--schools, churches, stores, office and professional buildings, utilities, service stations, and roads--are likewise expected to break records in 1955.

NEW CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN JUNE--Outlays for new construction rose seasonally in June to $3.8 billion, the highest monthly figure on record, and brought total dollar volume of new construction for the first half of 1955 to an alltime high of $19.1 billion. This represents a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $41.7 billion, 11 percent higher than the $37.6-billion total in 1954, the previous peak year. Virtually all types of construction shared in the 7-percent rise between May and June, but most of the increase resulted from expansion of house and store building and highway work. The May-June advances on store building were not as strong as usual at this time of year, but this type of work has been at an alltime high since March. Outlays for private industrial building increased more than seasonally from May to the largest June total on record.

HOUSING STARTS IN MAY--Nonfarm housing starts advanced seasonally in May to 132,000, or 22 percent above a year earlier and 12 percent under the alltime high in May 1950. Private units begun this May (129,500) represented an annual rate of 1,306,000 after allowance for seasonal factors--about the same as the April rate but well below the 1,400,000-unit average for the latter months of 1954 and the first quarter of 1955. During the first 5 months, a total of 553,500 new dwelling units (private and public) were started in 1955, compared with 453,000 in 1954 and 561,400 in the record-breaking year 1950.

FHA-VA ACTIVITY IN MAY--Nonfarm housing begun under both FHA and VA programs continued to advance in May, and as in April, accounted for half the total number of privately owned dwelling units begun during the month. VA appraisal requests in May (69,280) recovered most of the small April decline, and while FHA applications edged down again (to 30,199) from the high March figure, the amount of activity on both programs assures continued strength for Government-assisted housing starts in future months. Comparing the first 5 months of 1954-55, FHA starts volume was greater this year by 17 percent, and VA starts by 81 percent.

NONFARM MORTGAGE RECORDINGS IN APRIL--Total nonfarm mortgage recordings declined slightly from the alltime monthly high in March to $2.4 billion in April; the small reduction was shared by all types of lenders except mutual savings banks. The number of mortgage recordings also ebbed a little from the March peak, but the average mortgage amount pressed up to a new record level in April. For the first 4 months of 1955, total recordings amounted to $8.8 billion--almost two-fifths greater than in the comparable 1954 period.

BUILDING PERMIT ACTIVITY IN MAY--Building-permit valuations rose slightly in May to more than $1.8 billion, 29 percent above the May 1954 figure. The April-May rise reflected significant gains in store building and in alteration and repair work, plus smaller increases in housing and community building; these were almost offset by declines in office and warehouse building, and industrial plant. For the first 5 months of 1955, permit valuations amounted to $7.8 billion, or a fourth above the January-May 1954 total. Housing accounted for most of this gain, although all other types of building construction were considerably higher except community building, which showed little change over the year.

PUBLIC CONTRACTS AWARDED IN APRIL--After a steep rise in March, the value of contracts awarded for public construction held steady in April at a little over $770 million. Substantial increases in awards for highway projects (principally federally

aided State roads) and for State and local electric power facilities were offset by drops for most other kinds of public work. Comparing the first 4 months of 1954-55, public contract awards were 5 percent higher this year--reflecting substantial gains for State and local utilities of all kinds, and for troop housing and federally owned hospitals. Federal awards dropped for industrial plant (including atomic energy facilities), warehouses, and electric power.

CONTRACTS AWARDED IN THE 37 EASTERN STATES IN MAY--Down 6 percent from April, construction contracts awarded in the 37 States east of the Rocky Mountains totaled $2.2 billion in May, or 13 percent above the May 1954 figure. Total volume for the first 5 months of 1955, at $9.7 billion and 29 percent above January-May 1954, was unprecedented for the period. From the high level this April, awards declined somewhat in May for all major types of work except nonresidential building, where some large contracts were let for manufacturing and store building. Public-utility contract values declined more than any others from April to May (by 22 percent), but had advanced most from a year ago.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN MAY--Construction costs rose slightly from April to May, continuing the uptrend which began in January of this year. The Department of Commerce composite index for May, at 124.3 percent of the 1947-49 average, was 3 percent above the index for May 1954.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS IN MAY--Another fractional rise in May (0.5 percent) brought the wholesale price index for building materials to a new high of 124.0, or 5 percent above the May 1954 level when the index was nearing the end of a decline from the previous peak (121.3) in July 1953. Although wholesale prices of many important products showed little or no change from April to May this year, asphalt roofing (up about 7.5 percent) recovered most of its February-April drop, while Douglas fir lumber rose 1.3 percent, oak flooring 2.6 percent, and asbestos cement shingles 3 percent. Smaller advances were reported for building wire, brick and tile, and hardwood plywood.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OUTPUT IN APRIL--Indexes of construction materials output were at a postwar April high for a majority of the main commodity groups despite some declines from the unseasonally high March figures. Output this April was well above the year-ago level for all items except iron and steel products, which remained about the same. Increases from April 1954 ranged from 3 percent for lumber and wood products to 25 percent for asphalt products.

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT IN MAY--The April-to-May expansion in contract construction employment was greater than usual this year. Rising by 141,000 to 2,537,000, the May figure was about the same as a year ago and only 85,000 under the May record in 1951. By April this year, employment in some of the special trades had exceeded the 1954 level, but employment by general contractors, and on highway and heavy construction, was somewhat lower.

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN APRIL--Hourly earnings on contract construction remained unchanged from March to April (at $2.57) but weekly pay dropped by $1.80 to $92.26 because the workweek was off by nearly an hour to a 35.9-hour average--the shortest for any April in postwar years. The March-April decline in hours worked and in weekly pay cut across all types of contract construction, and resulted partly from adverse weather in some sections plus scattered shutdowns for the Easter holidays. Compared with April 1954, weekly earnings this April averaged 98 cents less, the workweek was 1.1 hours shorter, but hourly pay was 5 cents more.

APPRENTICE TRAINING IN CONSTRUCTION TRADES, FIRST QUARTER 1955--Over 91,000 apprentices were being trained in construction trades at the end of the first quarter of 1955, slightly more than a year earlier. Painters and paperhangers showed the largest rate of expansion; all other major construction trade groups showed some increase except the trowel and electrical trades, in which apprenticeship declined slightly. At the end of both 1953 and 1954, construction trades apprentices accounted for about half of total registered apprentices in all industries.

# Construction and Economic Activity at Mid-Year

HYMAN L. LEWIS*

The first half of 1955 ended with the national economy not only fully recovered from the recession which began in late 1953 but actually at new highs. While the improvement had been commonly anticipated in the last months of 1954, the dimensions and vigor of the advance generally exceeded expectations.

The major characteristic of the present prosperity is that the underlying demand is civilian in origin rather than defense-connected and is actuated by current, rather than accumulated, needs. The new peak has been reached without such seller's-market features as anticipatory buying, shortages, and large price advances which were notable in various earlier expansion periods.

## Role of the Consumer in the Recent Recovery

Consumer demand for improved levels of living has played the leading role in the 2-year span between the old peak and the new record now being established. Activities by or on behalf of the individual consumer--such as personal consumption expenditures, homebuilding, and State and local services for educational and other community facilities--increased sufficiently to outweigh declines in Federal defense outlays and in investment in inventories and capital goods. In the past few months, reflecting to a considerable extent the fact that consumer demand was pressing against capacity, business investment in fixed assets also has been rising.

The dominant influence of the consumer became evident almost as soon as the post-Korean era got under way in the latter half of 1953. Despite the sharp drop in employment and hours of work, consumption actually reached new dollar and physical volume records in each quarter of 1954. The only decline of any magnitude was in automobile buying, but there was a sharp recovery in about a year. Retailers generally had their best Christmas season on record. The rise continued into the first quarter of 1955, with automobile sales setting the pace; by the second quarter it included a very wide range of goods, from shoes to jewelry.

The construction industry also has been lifted by this influence well beyond the levels forecast in late 1954. Home and commercial building showed the greatest strength in the construction field during the first half of 1955. Demonstrating the nature of the demand, the increase in residential building activity was in the size and quality as well as in the number of units built for sale.

The upward push for consumer goods and services and for housing and related facilities in a period of full employment requires no explanation, but it seems at first glance paradoxical that consumer spending should increase in the face of curtailed business and Government outlays. However, this was not a wholly unexpected nor unprecedented turn of events. A similar development occurred in the 1948-49 recession. Businessmen cut back inventories and capital outlays, yet during the year 1949 consumers spent more money and received more goods and services than in any earlier year.

The willingness of consumers to spend freely during short periods of business hesitation reflects the fact that temporary changes in income do not immediately and materially alter the average family's pattern or volume of buying. Actually, in both of the recent recessions, income losses among wage earners as a group were quite temporary and relatively slight. Most layoffs were for short periods of time, and were confined largely to manufacturing and closely allied activities; most other industries did not even cut employment.

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The shrinkage of personal incomes during the 1948-49 downturn lasted for hardly a year, and even in late 1949 at the lowest level--which was made worse by widespread strikes--total income after taxes was higher than at any earlier time except for the peak months of the boom. During the 1953-54 recession, disposable personal income dipped slightly in the last quarter of 1953, then rose steadily to successive new highs.

"Automatic stabilizers," together with modest but important increases in wage rates, kept incomes high. Among the former were unemployment insurance, agricultural price supports, and reductions in business taxes. The greater strength of disposable incomes during the past year also reflects the January 1954 reduction in Federal income tax rates and an increase in dividends, resulting from the elimination of the excess profits tax and partly from the fact that corporations distributed a larger share of their profits than previously.

The great majority of consumers thus retained a feeling of security about the continuity of income. Even in the case of laid-off workers (except in certain depressed areas with special industrial problems) there was reasonable expectation of recall to work within a short time. Consequently there was little retreat from accustomed levels of living; many, with ample savings to back up their confidence, took advantage of improved values and qualities which resulted from the determination of businessmen and builders to press for volume rather than stand pat on prices and let output bear the brunt of the decline.

The credit machinery during both recessions gave a fillip to housing demand, already stimulated by population increases, wider distribution of incomes, and the steady movement of families to the suburbs. Mortgage money, as a result of Government monetary and credit policies and the reduced needs of business, was readily available. Government credit insurance or guarantees made it quite easy during both periods for veterans and nonveterans to make use of the easing money market by buying homes with only a small cash outlay.

In addition, there was a large backlog of unsatisfied needs for consumer durable goods during the 1949 recession. At the onset of the 1953-54 decline, on the other hand, the main backlogs were in the construction field for community buildings and services, stores, and offices; these had resulted from previous housing and consumption booms but had been held down by restrictions of the defense period. But no backlog comparable to 1949 existed in the fields of specific consumer needs. This fact has made recent consumer demand all the more noteworthy, but it means that the present economy is entering a phase which has no precise parallel. A test of the durability of consumer demand under similar conditions did not occur in 1950, because of the Korean outbreak; hence, economists must reason without clear-cut historical precedent.

### The Widening-Out of the Recovery

Consumption expenditures have now helped set other important forces into motion. Because consumers bought more goods in 1954 than factories produced, manufacturers have had to increase output merely to maintain their sales at the 1954 level. As an obvious corollary, businessmen at all stages of distribution have now changed their inventory policies in order to serve their customers properly and meet the increased volume of business.

Of even greater importance, businessmen have raised their sights in terms of productive capacity. Industrial building, which began to decline in mid-1953, reversed direction in late 1954 and exceeded seasonal expectations throughout the first half of 1955. Appraisals made last fall had indicated a continued decline in 1955; instead, an increase of 8 percent over last year now seems likely for 1955. In addition to capacity operations, factors behind the increase have been technological advances, competition, and ample funds from depreciation reserves and other resources.

The branching-out of the recovery to include a great variety of consumer goods industries and many phases of fixed investment, together with the continuing and marked rise in the income of both capital and labor, have led most observers to the belief that this year's output of goods and services will set a new high. For instance, the revised forecast of construction outlays [1] indicates that 1955 will exceed

[1] See page 9.

the 1954 record-breaking totals, not by 7 percent as had been anticipated last fall, but by 11 percent. However, most current appraisals do not visualize a stepping-up of the overall rate of expansion. The construction forecast thus implies little net increase, on a seasonally adjusted basis, during the rest of this year from the mid-year highs. The same is true of automobile production.

In probing for weak points, economic analysts consider several kinds of questions with respect to the last half of 1955 which may test the soundness and durability of the present level of consumer demand, even though they recognize that any slack could be made up, for a while, by the expansion in investment.

Precisely because the advance in sales of houses and automobiles has been greater than anticipated, some uneasiness has arisen as to whether the first-half rates can be continued. Some flattening out of activity in the homebuilding industry is implied in the recent appraisals. Apart from the seasonal decline in automobile production, the rate of sales during the second-half year will in part depend upon the timing of the introduction of 1956 models and their acceptance by consumers. It is not clear, in these instances, whether there may have been, in effect, some borrowing from the second half of this year or from early 1956. This question basically is one of short-term fluctuations around a long-term uptrend.

Projections can be made on the basis of a number of known or assumed factors, but there must be reservations as to their applicability to any particular moment because we do not know how to estimate the timing and extent of demand arising out of a number of untested factors such as suburban home-building and two-car families. Further, it is quite likely that the working of the price mechanism--an abundance of attractive goods at prices which permit some haggling and on terms which require little current cash--is bringing into the market large numbers of new buyers.

Likewise, the demand for houses is continually being fed by new wellsprings whose pressures cannot be measured. Families are becoming larger, modes of living are changing, and the ownership of a home is becoming more and more not only a symbol of status but part of the accepted standard of living of the wage-earner group.

It is clear that during the last decade a rising and more widely and evenly distributed income has reinforced the power of the most important of all the socio-economic intangibles: the desire continually to raise our level of living. The early postwar house emphasized shelter; the present model, convenience, efficiency, space. However, when one weighs the relative importance of various current deviations from projected trends, it is clear that, with the continuous expanding of markets and opening up of new strata of demand, we do not any longer know the saturation point in consumer demand.

Another category of questions involves such basic problems as the decline in farm income, the rise in private debt, the position of the smaller business in an increasingly competitive and cost-conscious economy, and the possible influence upon job opportunities of rapid gains in productivity.

Some of these have been economic problems for a very long time; while serious, they do not arise out of the recent recovery and offer no immediate threat to its continuance. Others have been significant factors in the expansion and have by no means played out their role. A particularly important stimulant during the past year has been the buildup of purchasing power by the use of installment and mortgage debt, but there is no evidence as yet that credit in itself has become the prime mover. By all the rules of thumb, the level of debt has not gotten out of line with income; but here, too, projections can only be used in a relative sense. Many usual signs of excesses--rising commodity prices, foreclosures, failures, repossessions, involuntary inventory accumulation--have been notably absent. Some moderate checking of the rein, in the form of tighter money markets, more stringent terms, and slightly higher interest rates has already begun.

# The Vacancy Rate and Withdrawals From the Housing Supply

Vacant housing available for sale and for rent amounted to 2.2 percent of all dwelling units in the United States during the second quarter of 1955. The vacancy rate is low enough to indicate that the demand for housing is strong and is absorbing the near-record number of dwelling units being built this year.

The national vacancy figure was released recently by the Department of Commerce, based on preliminary results (shown below) of a sample survey of residential vacancies conducted by the Business and Defense Services Administration and the Bureau of the Census. Final results available in mid-August will provide more details, including information for four broad regions.

The current vacancy rate of 2.2 percent compares with the 1.6 percent rate for 1950. In the light of the housing shortages which existed in many areas 5 years ago, this increase is beneficial. It permits both better values, resulting from increased competition, and a less restricted choice in selection.

The national vacancy figures are averages which do not reflect the situation in any locality and may, in fact, encompass housing surpluses in some areas, offset by shortages in others. Similarly, within localities, it is likely that certain types of housing are in short supply while other types are abundant. The present level of the overall vacancy rate, however, is sufficient evidence that the major housing problem now is that of building enough of the right kinds of housing in the right places, rather than overbuilding.

The "elbow room" needed by the 20 percent of the population that moves each year is being provided more by rental housing than by housing for sale. The ratio of housing for rent to total housing increased from 1.1 percent in 1950 to 1.8 percent in 1955, whereas housing for sale has remained at 0.4 percent of the total, in spite of the large volume of such dwellings placed on the market within the past few years.

HOUSING VACANCY RATES, APRIL 1950 AND SECOND QUARTER 1955 [1]

| Vacancy or occupancy class | Percent distribution | |
|---|---|---|
| | Second quarter, 1955 [2] | April 1950 |
| **TOTAL DWELLING UNITS** | **100.0** | **100.0** |
| Vacant dwelling units: | | |
| Available for occupancy [3] | 2.2 | 1.6 |
| For rent | 1.8 | 1.1 |
| For sale | .4 | .5 |
| Rented or sold, awaiting occupancy [3] | .5 | 1.6 |
| Held off market [3] | 1.5 | |
| Dilapidated | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Seasonal dwelling units | 2.6 | [4] 2.6 |
| Occupied dwelling units | 92.0 | 93.1 |

[1] These vacancy estimates are derived from data collected in connection with the Current Population Survey--the regular monthly sample survey of the Bureau of the Census. Since the estimates are based on a sample, they are subject to sampling variability and may be expected to differ from results which would be obtained from a census. The standard error of the 2.2-percent vacancy rate is approximately 0.1 percentage point. The chances are about 2 out of 3 that an estimate will differ from a census enumeration by less than one standard error, i.e. the vacancy rate would fall between 2.1 and 2.3 percent. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that an estimate from the sample would differ from a census by less than twice the standard error, and about 99 out of 100 that the difference would be less than 2-1/2 times the standard error.

In addition to sampling variation, the estimates may be subject to biases due to errors of response, nonreporting, and classification. The possible effect of such biases is not included in the above measures of reliability.

[2] Preliminary.

[3] Nonseasonal, not dilapidated units.

[4] Includes nonresident housing which amounted to 0.3 percent of total dwelling units in 1950. These units are distributed in 1955 among the seasonal units and those held off the market.

This evidence that the housing market has not become saturated is supported by data recently gathered in local areas by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. BLS surveys reveal

a high rate of withdrawal of dwelling units from the housing supply. Estimates of the withdrawal rate are based on a detailed analysis of information for six large city areas, collected during BLS surveys made regularly to review the sample of dwellings used in compiling the housing component of the Consumer Price Index. Information from additional areas will be analyzed and published later in the year. In 5 of the 6 areas studied so far, 1 percent or more of the rental units were demolished, condemned, or otherwise withdrawn from housekeeping use annually during survey periods in 1953 and 1954. In a sixth, the corresponding annual rate was about one-half of 1 percent. The withdrawal rate of rental units for each of the 6 cities is as follows: Baltimore, Md., 1.2 percent; Boston, Mass., 1.0 percent; Cleveland, Ohio, 0.4 percent; Detroit, Mich., 2.1 percent; Minneapolis, Minn., 1.6 percent; and Seattle, Wash., 1.8 percent.

Assuming that the national withdrawal rate is around 1 percent for rental units in all large city areas, and declines significantly in smaller localities and for owner-occupied dwellings, it is possible that in the neighborhood of 250,000 to 300,000 nonfarm dwelling units have been withdrawn from the housing supply annually in recent years. The BLS studies also indicate that the addition of some dwelling units to the housing inventory through sound structural conversion either to houses or nonresidential property has been cancelled or outweighed by reverse conversion, i.e. from apartments or houses to stores, offices, warehouses, or other nonresidential uses, and from small apartment units to larger dwellings. Thus, it appears that, in line with the level of vacancies, housing retirements have been accounting for most of the difference between the annual number of new nonfarm households formed and the substantially larger number of new nonfarm dwelling units provided.

## The Outlook for Portland Cement This Year

A recent analysis of the demand for Portland Cement offers only scant hope of avoiding an increasing number of serious local shortages during this year's expected peak of demand in early autumn. In view of recent forecasts that construction activity may reach alltime highs in 1955, the completion of many projects may be delayed by supply and distribution problems.

The key factors in the analysis may be summarized thus:

1. It is estimated that the current and impending volume of construction could result in domestic demand for 285 to 288 million barrels for the year 1955. [1]

2. Net export requirements could easily raise total 1955 demand for Portland Cement to over 290 million barrels.

3. The total domestic capacity of the Portland Cement industry was estimated by the Bureau of Mines at the end of March 1955 at 294 million barrels. Thus the effective anticipated demand presses very hard on capacity, and there would seem to be little leeway for meeting such exigencies as heavy regional or local requirements exceeding normal "pipeline" inventories.

4. In general, the dependence upon accumulated mill stocks, which had been a favorable factor in the past, does not seem to promise a solution to shortages at the peak of demand in October. It may be noted that in 1953 stocks reached a peak in May of 25.2 million barrels, and dropped to a low of 10.0 million in October. In 1954, peak inventory was in March with 28.9 million barrels, and the low point by

October was 9.7 million. However, the picture thus far this year indicates a peak in February at 27.0 million barrels. Consumption for the first 4 months of this year exceeded the corresponding 1954 period by 7 million barrels, and stocks at the end of April 1955 were 1 million barrels short of the year-ago level.

With peak demand expected in August, September, and October (the general pattern since 1947) what are the practical possibilities for averting or alleviating impending pressures? In a few costal areas, imports from Belgium, Luxemburg, and West Germany offer one possibility of additional supply. However, the overall supply picture can be significantly affected only by expansion of domestic facilities for producing cement. Reports in the trade press indicate that expansion contemplated or in process of construction, when fully in use, will result in an additional output of over 16 million barrels. At this time, however, there is no compilation available to indicate how soon the new facilities will be ready for production.

[1] This estimate is based on a forecasting technique involving the correlation of Portland Cement shipments with new construction activity. Estimates based on this technique appear to have a high degree of accuracy as shown in the accompanying table. The method employed is fully described in the July 1954 issue of Construction and Building Materials in the article, The Demand for Cement.

ACTUAL AND ESTIMATED DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF PORTLAND CEMENT

*(Millions of barrels)*

| Year | Actual consumption | Estimated consumption | Estimated as percent of actual |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1946 | 164.4 | 165.5 | 100.7 |
| 1947 | 180.6 | 176.8 | 97.9 |
| 1948 | 198.7 | 195.9 | 98.6 |
| 1949 | 201.7 | 206.5 | 102.4 |
| 1950 | 226.8 | 227.6 | 100.4 |
| 1951 | 239.1 | 244.1 | 102.1 |
| 1952 | 248.9 | 248.8 | 100.0 |
| 1953 | 259.2 | 257.7 | 99.4 |
| 1954 | 273.1 | 269.6 | 98.7 |
| 1955 | -- | 285.0 | -- |

# Outlook for New Construction in 1955

New construction activity is expected to reach $41.8 billion in 1955, 11 percent above last year's record of $37.6 billion, according to revised outlook estimates.

Prospects are that both private and public construction will reach an alltime high in 1955, with private expenditures probably increasing (by 14 percent) to $29.5 billion, and public outlays (by 4 percent) to $12.3 billion. These revised estimates reflect the unprecedented volume of construction activity so far this year, at levels above earlier expectations, and indications that there will be virtually no abatement in the present rate during the remainder of 1955.

The outlook for construction assumes that business in general, as well as consumers' disposable income, will be maintained throughout 1955 at peak levels. It assumes further that mortgage funds will be adequate, on relatively favorable terms, despite anticipation of heavy demand on the credit and capi-

tal markets occasioned by continued economic prosperity. Notwithstanding recent spot shortages of cement[1] and gypsum wallboard, nationwide supplies of all building materials should be sufficient for 1955 demand. In preparing the 1955 estimates, costs were assumed at levels moderately above those of last year.

It now appears that about 1,300,000 new private nonfarm dwelling units will be started this year, a figure exceeded only by the 1,350,000 private units begun in 1950. On a seasonally adjusted basis, private starts were at an average annual rate of about 1,400,000 during the first quarter of 1955, and declined to about 1,300,000 in April and May. The projected $14.6 billion of expenditures on privately owned new dwelling-unit construction in 1955 is about a fifth higher than in the previous peak year 1954. This increase in dollar outlays reflects not only an over-the-year rise in starts (in the neighborhood of 8-10 percent), and a very large carryover of work on the unseasonally large number of dwellings

NEW CONSTRUCTION IN CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES, 1954 AND OUTLOOK FOR 1955 [1]

*(Millions of dollars)*

| Type of construction | 1954 | 1955 | Percent change |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total new construction** | **37,577** | **41,800** | **+11** |
| Private construction | 25,768 | 29,485 | +14 |
| Residential building (nonfarm) | 13,496 | 16,125 | +19 |
| New dwelling units | 12,070 | 14,600 | +21 |
| Additions and alterations | 1,130 | 1,200 | + 6 |
| Nonhousekeeping | 296 | 325 | +10 |
| Nonresidential building (nonfarm) | 6,250 | 7,285 | +17 |
| Industrial | 2,030 | 2,200 | + 8 |
| Commercial | 2,212 | 2,875 | +30 |
| Warehouses, office and loft buildings | 958 | 1,075 | +12 |
| Stores, restaurants, and garages | 1,254 | 1,800 | +44 |
| Other nonresidential building | 2,008 | 2,210 | +10 |
| Religious | 593 | 750 | +26 |
| Educational | 529 | 500 | - 5 |
| Social and recreational | 228 | 265 | +16 |
| Hospital and institutional | 337 | 370 | +10 |
| Miscellaneous | 321 | 325 | + 1 |
| Farm construction | 1,560 | 1,400 | -10 |
| Public utilities | 4,341 | 4,500 | + 4 |
| Railroads | 353 | 300 | -15 |
| Telephone and telegraph | 655 | 675 | + 3 |
| Other public utilities | 3,333 | 3,525 | + 6 |
| Local transit | 25 | 25 | 0 |
| Pipelines | 300 | 325 | + 8 |
| Electric light and power | 1,900 | 1,850 | - 3 |
| Gas | 1,108 | 1,325 | +20 |
| All other private | 121 | 175 | +45 |
| Public construction | 11,809 | 12,315 | + 4 |
| Residential building | 336 | 250 | -26 |
| Nonresidential building | 4,641 | 4,490 | - 3 |
| Industrial | 1,506 | 870 | -42 |
| Educational | 2,134 | 2,550 | +19 |
| Hospital and institutional | 365 | 310 | -15 |
| Other nonresidential building | 636 | 760 | +19 |
| Military facilities | 1,030 | 1,150 | +12 |
| Highways | 3,750 | 4,200 | +12 |
| Sewer and water | 982 | 1,100 | +12 |
| Miscellaneous public-service enterprises | 218 | 300 | +38 |
| Conservation and development | 704 | 650 | - 8 |
| All other public | 148 | 175 | +18 |

[1] Joint estimates of the U. S. Department of Labor and the U. S. Department of Commerce.

begun in the latter part of 1954, but also an increase in construction costs, together with a trend toward larger and more expensive homes.

In addition to residential building, other types of construction which are strongly influenced by the growth and movement of population--schools, churches, stores, office and professional building, utilities, service stations, and roads--are likewise expected to break records in 1955. Commercial building probably will show the sharpest increase from 1954 (30 percent), rising to nearly $2.9 billion. Following closely will be religious building, which is likely to expand by a fourth, to about $750 million.

Private outlays for public utility expansion, which have exceeded the $4-billion mark each year beginning with 1952, will show a slight rise in 1955 to $4.5 billion. Gains expected for petroleum pipeline construction and gas plant expansion will bring these two categories to new high levels, and will more than offset declines anticipated for railroad and electric light and power facilities construction.

Somewhat more money will be spent in 1955 than in 1954 on private industrial building, reversing the gradual downtrend of the past 3 years. Primary ferrous metal, chemical, steel, and food processing plant expansion, plus increased outlays for modernization of existing facilities, are likely to account for most of the overall gain from 1954.

The value of new sewer and water facility work put in place in 1955 is expected to exceed the $1 billion level for the first time. Educational building also should set a new high mark--$3 billion--even though indications now are that private school construction will show a 5-percent decline. Social and recreational building appears likely to attain a slight edge over the previous alltime high of 1949.

Expenditures for highway construction probably will reach an unprecedented $4.2 billion this year, or 12 percent above the 1954 figure. This reflects chiefly the expanded program of Federal aid to highways.

It is anticipated that increased private spending for hospital construction will fail to compensate for decreased public outlays in this category at all governmental levels--Federal, State, and local. Also expected to show declines this year are farm construction, public housing, conservation and development work (because of decreases in reclamation projects and TVA steam plant construction), and public industrial building, especially installations for the Atomic Energy Commission, on which the peak construction period has passed.

Construction work at military bases is scheduled for a moderate gain in 1955, but Federal spending as a whole is likely to be down by more than a tenth, to $3.6 billion. On the other hand, spending by State and local governments is expected to rise to a new high of $8.7 billion.

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[1] Additional information and further analysis of the cement situation since the outlook estimates were prepared in early June indicate that pressure on available supply will be greater than believed at that time. This may cause a slowdown in activity toward the end of the year. However, it is unlikely that the total anticipated volume for the year as a whole will be affected significantly. (See The Outlook for Portland Cement This Year, p. 8.)

# Part 1--Construction Put in Place

**Table 1.--New Construction Put in Place: Current Month, by Type of Construction**

| Type of construction | Value *(in millions of dollars)* | | | | | Percent change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1955 | | 1954 | First 6 months | | June 1955 from-- | | First 6 months, 1954-55 |
| | June | May | June | 1955 | 1954 | May 1955 | June 1954 | |
| **TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION** | **3,812** | **3,555** | **3,385** | **19,114** | **16,730** | **+ 7** | **+13** | **+14** |
| **PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION** | **2,655** | **2,496** | **2,273** | **13,750** | **11,423** | **+ 6** | **+17** | **+20** |
| Residential building (nonfarm) | 1,466 | 1,380 | 1,193 | 7,485 | 5,717 | + 6 | +23 | +31 |
| New dwelling units | 1,310 | 1,230 | 1,050 | 6,770 | 5,055 | + 7 | +25 | +34 |
| Additions and alterations | 125 | 123 | 114 | 571 | 516 | + 2 | +10 | +11 |
| Nonhousekeeping | 31 | 27 | 29 | 144 | 146 | +15 | + 7 | - 1 |
| Nonresidential building | 634 | 590 | 530 | 3,436 | 2,915 | + 7 | +20 | +18 |
| Industrial | 189 | 183 | 161 | 1,115 | 1,019 | + 3 | +17 | + 9 |
| Commercial | 257 | 234 | 192 | 1,299 | 989 | +10 | +34 | +31 |
| Warehouses, office and loft buildings | 89 | 88 | 76 | 510 | 435 | + 1 | +17 | +17 |
| Stores, restaurants, and garages | 168 | 146 | 116 | 789 | 554 | +15 | +45 | +42 |
| Other nonresidential building | 188 | 173 | 177 | 1,022 | 907 | + 9 | + 6 | +13 |
| Religious | 63 | 58 | 47 | 336 | 252 | + 9 | +34 | +33 |
| Educational | 39 | 37 | 45 | 238 | 239 | + 5 | -13 | (1) |
| Hospital and institutional | 31 | 30 | 28 | 173 | 162 | + 3 | +11 | + 7 |
| Social and recreational | 24 | 20 | 20 | 112 | 101 | +20 | +20 | +11 |
| Miscellaneous | 31 | 28 | 37 | 163 | 153 | +11 | -16 | + 7 |
| Farm construction | 141 | 131 | 157 | 676 | 751 | + 8 | -10 | -10 |
| Public utility | 398 | 379 | 382 | 2,066 | 1,991 | + 5 | + 4 | + 4 |
| Railroad | 30 | 29 | 31 | 151 | 175 | + 3 | - 3 | -14 |
| Telephone and telegraph | 60 | 60 | 58 | 330 | 320 | 0 | + 3 | + 3 |
| Other public utility | 308 | 290 | 293 | 1,585 | 1,496 | + 6 | + 5 | + 6 |
| All other private | 16 | 16 | 11 | 87 | 49 | 0 | +45 | +78 |
| **PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION** | **1,157** | **1,059** | **1,112** | **5,364** | **5,307** | **+ 9** | **+ 4** | **+ 1** |
| Residential building | 21 | 22 | 26 | 131 | 196 | - 5 | -19 | -33 |
| Nonresidential building | 395 | 379 | 407 | 2,152 | 2,267 | + 4 | - 3 | - 5 |
| Industrial | 69 | 72 | 129 | 454 | 829 | - 4 | -47 | -45 |
| Educational | 221 | 211 | 183 | 1,184 | 994 | + 5 | +21 | +19 |
| Hospital and institutional | 34 | 32 | 35 | 173 | 177 | + 6 | - 3 | - 2 |
| Other nonresidential building | 71 | 64 | 60 | 341 | 267 | +11 | +18 | +28 |
| Military facilities | 115 | 110 | 90 | 567 | 461 | + 5 | +28 | +23 |
| Highway | 425 | 360 | 400 | 1,525 | 1,416 | +18 | + 6 | + 8 |
| Sewer and water | 99 | 97 | 85 | 515 | 460 | + 2 | +16 | +12 |
| Public service enterprises | 26 | 20 | 22 | 100 | 95 | +30 | +18 | + 5 |
| Conservation and development | 59 | 57 | 68 | 295 | 339 | + 4 | -13 | -13 |
| All other public | 17 | 14 | 14 | 79 | 73 | +21 | +21 | + 8 |

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Change of less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: For all the statistical series shown in Construction Review, data for the latest months or quarter, and the most recent year, are subject to revision.

**Table 2.--New Construction Put in Place: Recent Monthly Trend, by Type of Construction**

*(Value, in millions of dollars)*

| Type of construction | 1954 | | | | | | | 1955 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June |
| **TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION** | **3,385** | **3,556** | **3,693** | **3,674** | **3,503** | **3,329** | **3,092** | **2,819** | **2,697** | **2,974** | **3,257** | **3,555** | **3,812** |
| **PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION** | **2,273** | **2,387** | **2,457** | **2,460** | **2,420** | **2,358** | **2,263** | **2,072** | **2,003** | **2,179** | **2,345** | **2,496** | **2,655** |
| Residential building (nonfarm) | 1,193 | 1,267 | 1,313 | 1,327 | 1,321 | 1,293 | 1,258 | 1,122 | 1,049 | 1,170 | 1,298 | 1,380 | 1,466 |
| New dwelling units | 1,050 | 1,125 | 1,175 | 1,195 | 1,195 | 1,175 | 1,150 | 1,030 | 960 | 1,070 | 1,170 | 1,230 | 1,310 |
| Additions and alterations | 114 | 113 | 110 | 107 | 102 | 96 | 86 | 71 | 68 | 79 | 105 | 123 | 125 |
| Nonhousekeeping | 29 | 29 | 28 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 23 | 27 | 31 |
| Nonresidential building | 530 | 551 | 556 | 558 | 554 | 564 | 552 | 542 | 549 | 559 | 562 | 590 | 634 |
| Industrial | 161 | 158 | 159 | 162 | 170 | 178 | 184 | 186 | 187 | 186 | 184 | 183 | 189 |
| Commercial | 192 | 206 | 210 | 210 | 202 | 203 | 192 | 188 | 199 | 208 | 213 | 234 | 257 |
| Warehouses, office and loft buildings | 76 | 81 | 88 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 87 | 84 | 83 | 82 | 84 | 88 | 89 |
| Stores, restaurants, and garages | 116 | 125 | 122 | 122 | 113 | 113 | 105 | 104 | 116 | 126 | 129 | 146 | 168 |
| Other nonresidential bldg. | 177 | 187 | 187 | 186 | 182 | 183 | 176 | 168 | 163 | 165 | 165 | 173 | 188 |
| Religious | 47 | 52 | 56 | 58 | 59 | 59 | 57 | 55 | 53 | 53 | 54 | 58 | 63 |
| Educational | 45 | 48 | 50 | 50 | 49 | 48 | 45 | 42 | 39 | 41 | 40 | 37 | 39 |
| Hospital & institutional | 28 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 24 |
| Social and recreational | 20 | 21 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 19 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 30 | 31 |
| Miscellaneous | 37 | 37 | 30 | 26 | 23 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 26 | 28 | 31 |
| Farm construction | 157 | 164 | 167 | 153 | 126 | 106 | 93 | 92 | 95 | 103 | 114 | 131 | 141 |
| Public utility | 382 | 393 | 409 | 410 | 407 | 383 | 348 | 302 | 297 | 333 | 357 | 379 | 398 |
| Railroad | 31 | 30 | 26 | 28 | 38 | 28 | 28 | 20 | 19 | 25 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| Telephone and telegraph | 58 | 58 | 58 | 57 | 56 | 55 | 51 | 50 | 50 | 55 | 55 | 60 | 60 |
| Other public utility | 293 | 305 | 325 | 325 | 313 | 300 | 269 | 232 | 228 | 253 | 274 | 290 | 308 |
| All other private | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 14 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 16 |
| **PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION** | **1,112** | **1,169** | **1,236** | **1,214** | **1,083** | **971** | **829** | **747** | **694** | **795** | **912** | **1,059** | **1,157** |
| Residential building | 26 | 24 | 25 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 23 | 22 | 22 | 21 |
| Nonresidential building | 407 | 420 | 437 | 410 | 390 | 366 | 351 | 342 | 316 | 354 | 366 | 379 | 395 |
| Industrial | 129 | 130 | 130 | 106 | 105 | 104 | 102 | 90 | 70 | 81 | 72 | 72 | 69 |
| Educational | 183 | 189 | 195 | 197 | 193 | 185 | 181 | 182 | 178 | 190 | 202 | 211 | 221 |
| Hospital and institutional | 35 | 34 | 37 | 33 | 31 | 28 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 28 | 31 | 32 | 34 |
| Other nonresidential bldg. | 60 | 67 | 75 | 74 | 61 | 49 | 43 | 45 | 45 | 55 | 61 | 64 | 71 |
| Military facilities | 90 | 90 | 97 | 98 | 101 | 95 | 88 | 82 | 78 | 83 | 99 | 110 | 115 |
| Highway | 400 | 440 | 479 | 492 | 389 | 320 | 214 | 155 | 150 | 180 | 255 | 360 | 425 |
| Sewer and water | 85 | 89 | 94 | 91 | 88 | 83 | 77 | 77 | 70 | 83 | 89 | 97 | 99 |
| Public service enterprises | 22 | 25 | 25 | 23 | 19 | 16 | 15 | 13 | 11 | 14 | 16 | 20 | 26 |
| Conservation and development | 68 | 67 | 64 | 63 | 61 | 58 | 52 | 45 | 38 | 45 | 51 | 57 | 59 |
| All other public | 14 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 10 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 17 |

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

**COMPOSITION OF REGIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS**

*NORTHEAST*

1. *New England*
   Connecticut
   Maine
   Massachusetts
   New Hampshire
   Rhode Island
   Vermont
2. *Middle Atlantic*
   New Jersey
   New York
   Pennsylvania

*NORTH CENTRAL*

3. *E. N. Central*
   Illinois
   Indiana
   Michigan
   Ohio
   Wisconsin
4. *W. N. Central*
   Iowa
   Kansas
   Minnesota
   Missouri
   Nebraska
   North Dakota
   South Dakota

*SOUTH*

5. *S. Atlantic*
   Delaware
   Dist. of Col.
   Florida
   Georgia
   Maryland
   N. Carolina
   S. Carolina
   Virginia
   W. Virginia
6. *E. S. Central*
   Alabama
   Kentucky
   Mississippi
   Tennessee
7. *W. S. Central*
   Arkansas
   Louisiana
   Oklahoma
   Texas

*WEST*

8. *Mountain*
   Arizona
   Colorado
   Idaho
   Montana
   Nevada
   New Mexico
   Utah
   Wyoming
9. *Pacific*
   California
   Oregon
   Washington

**NONFARM POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN 1950**

*NORTHEAST*—29.5 percent. *NORTH CENTRAL*—29.0 percent. *SOUTH*—27.7 percent. *WEST*—13.8 percent.

Chart I.

## New Construction Put in Place

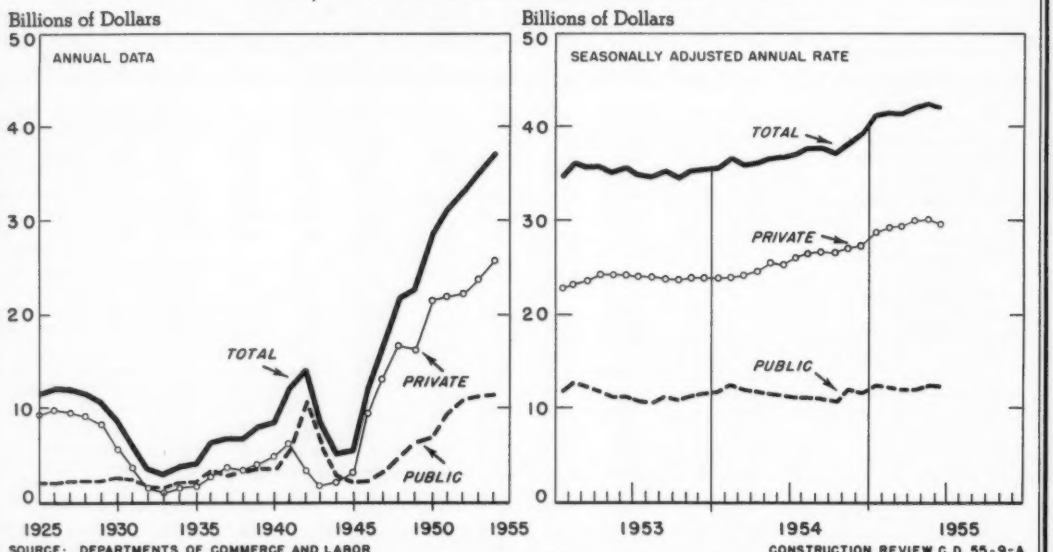


**Table 3.--New Construction Put in Place: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate, by Type of Construction**

*(Value, in millions of dollars)*

| Type of construction | Seasonally adjusted annual rate | | | | | | | Annual total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | 1955 | | | | | | | |
| | June | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | 1953 | 1954 |
| **TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION** | **37,296** | **41,136** | **41,412** | **41,304** | **41,916** | **42,360** | **41,964** | **35,271** | **37,577** |
| **PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION** | **25,500** | **28,752** | **29,220** | **29,352** | **29,976** | **30,024** | **29,676** | **23,877** | **25,768** |
| Residential building (nonfarm) | 13,224 | 16,032 | 16,140 | 15,960 | 16,392 | 16,392 | 16,140 | 11,930 | 13,496 |
| Nonresidential building | 6,276 | 6,624 | 6,984 | 7,248 | 7,464 | 7,512 | 7,464 | 5,680 | 6,250 |
| Industrial | 2,016 | 2,172 | 2,196 | 2,256 | 2,256 | 2,292 | 2,364 | 2,229 | 2,030 |
| Commercial | 2,196 | 2,376 | 2,664 | 2,820 | 2,952 | 2,964 | 2,904 | 1,791 | 2,192 |
| Warehouses, office and loft buildings | 972 | 960 | 1,008 | 1,056 | 1,104 | 1,152 | 1,140 | 739 | 958 |
| Stores, restaurants, and garages | 1,224 | 1,416 | 1,656 | 1,764 | 1,848 | 1,812 | 1,764 | 1,052 | 1,254 |
| Other nonresidential building | 2,064 | 2,076 | 2,124 | 2,172 | 2,256 | 2,256 | 2,196 | 1,660 | 2,008 |
| Farm construction | 1,572 | 1,476 | 1,464 | 1,452 | 1,440 | 1,428 | 1,404 | 1,731 | 1,560 |
| Public utility | 4,320 | 4,416 | 4,452 | 4,500 | 4,512 | 4,512 | 4,512 | 4,416 | 4,341 |
| All other private | 108 | 204 | 180 | 192 | 168 | 180 | 156 | 120 | 121 |
| **PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION** | **11,796** | **12,384** | **12,192** | **11,952** | **11,940** | **12,336** | **12,288** | **11,394** | **11,809** |
| Residential building | 300 | 288 | 288 | 288 | 276 | 264 | 240 | 556 | 336 |
| Nonresidential building | 4,644 | 4,668 | 4,512 | 4,524 | 4,392 | 4,416 | 4,512 | 4,346 | 4,641 |
| Military facilities | 1,044 | 1,176 | 1,236 | 1,128 | 1,260 | 1,380 | 1,344 | 1,307 | 1,030 |
| Highway | 3,768 | 4,128 | 4,092 | 3,852 | 3,828 | 4,080 | 4,044 | 3,160 | 3,750 |
| Sewer and water | 924 | 1,104 | 1,092 | 1,140 | 1,116 | 1,128 | 1,092 | 883 | 982 |
| Public service enterprises | 216 | 204 | 204 | 204 | 216 | 204 | 204 | 200 | 218 |
| Conservation and development | 756 | 660 | 612 | 648 | 684 | 708 | 672 | 830 | 704 |
| All other public | 144 | 156 | 156 | 168 | 168 | 156 | 180 | 112 | 148 |

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

**Table 4.--New Construction Put in Place: Value in 1947-49 Prices, by Type of Construction**

*(Millions of dollars)*

| Type of construction | 1955 | | | 1954 | Year | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May | Apr. | Mar. | May | 1949 | 1950 | 1951 | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 |
| **TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION** | **2,861** | **2,624** | **2,402** | **2,605** | **22,177** | **26,608** | **26,988** | **27,662** | **28,931** | **30,912** |
| **PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION** | **1,983** | **1,873** | **1,750** | **1,734** | **15,956** | **19,885** | **18,677** | **18,428** | **19,433** | **20,934** |
| Residential building (nonfarm) | 1,119 | 1,059 | 960 | 926 | 8,128 | 11,634 | 9,457 | 9,311 | 9,840 | 11,214 |
| Nonresidential building | 470 | 449 | 449 | 401 | 3,124 | 3,566 | 4,494 | 4,211 | 4,655 | 5,073 |
| Industrial | 151 | 152 | 155 | 135 | 954 | 1,004 | 1,790 | 1,909 | 1,807 | 1,690 |
| Warehouses, office and loft buildings | 70 | 67 | 66 | 60 | 313 | 396 | 500 | 461 | 640 | 789 |
| Stores, restaurants, and garages | 114 | 101 | 99 | 79 | 677 | 828 | 733 | 525 | 857 | 998 |
| Other nonresidential bldgs. | 135 | 129 | 129 | 127 | 1,180 | 1,338 | 1,471 | 1,316 | 1,351 | 1,596 |
| Farm construction | 111 | 96 | 88 | 126 | 1,479 | 1,583 | 1,616 | 1,643 | 1,484 | 1,341 |
| Public utility | 272 | 259 | 243 | 274 | 3,151 | 3,001 | 3,056 | 3,194 | 3,362 | 3,216 |
| All other private | 11 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 74 | 101 | 54 | 69 | 92 | 90 |
| **PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION** | **878** | **751** | **652** | **871** | **6,221** | **6,723** | **8,311** | **9,234** | **9,498** | **9,978** |
| Residential building | 18 | 18 | 19 | 26 | 353 | 321 | 512 | 550 | 459 | 281 |
| Nonresidential building | 299 | 290 | 282 | 320 | 1,990 | 2,237 | 3,050 | 3,465 | 3,531 | 3,743 |
| Industrial | 59 | 60 | 68 | 110 | 173 | 212 | 821 | 1,384 | 1,434 | 1,253 |
| Educational | 165 | 158 | 149 | 142 | 897 | 1,061 | 1,337 | 1,375 | 1,397 | 1,696 |
| Hospital and institutional | 25 | 24 | 22 | 27 | 458 | 467 | 466 | 401 | 297 | 289 |
| Other nonresidential building | 50 | 48 | 43 | 41 | 462 | 497 | 426 | 305 | 403 | 505 |
| Military facilities | 91 | 82 | 69 | 66 | 134 | 171 | 788 | 1,195 | 1,105 | 872 |
| Highway | 336 | 239 | 170 | 326 | 2,128 | 2,367 | 2,349 | 2,489 | 2,851 | 3,573 |
| Sewer and water | 69 | 64 | 60 | 60 | 586 | 590 | 655 | 639 | 681 | 724 |
| Public service enterprises | 14 | 11 | 10 | 14 | 190 | 164 | 168 | 148 | 146 | 156 |
| Conservation and development | 41 | 37 | 33 | 49 | 750 | 786 | 721 | 694 | 639 | 520 |
| All other public | 10 | 10 | 9 | 10 | 90 | 87 | 68 | 54 | 86 | 109 |

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

Chart 2

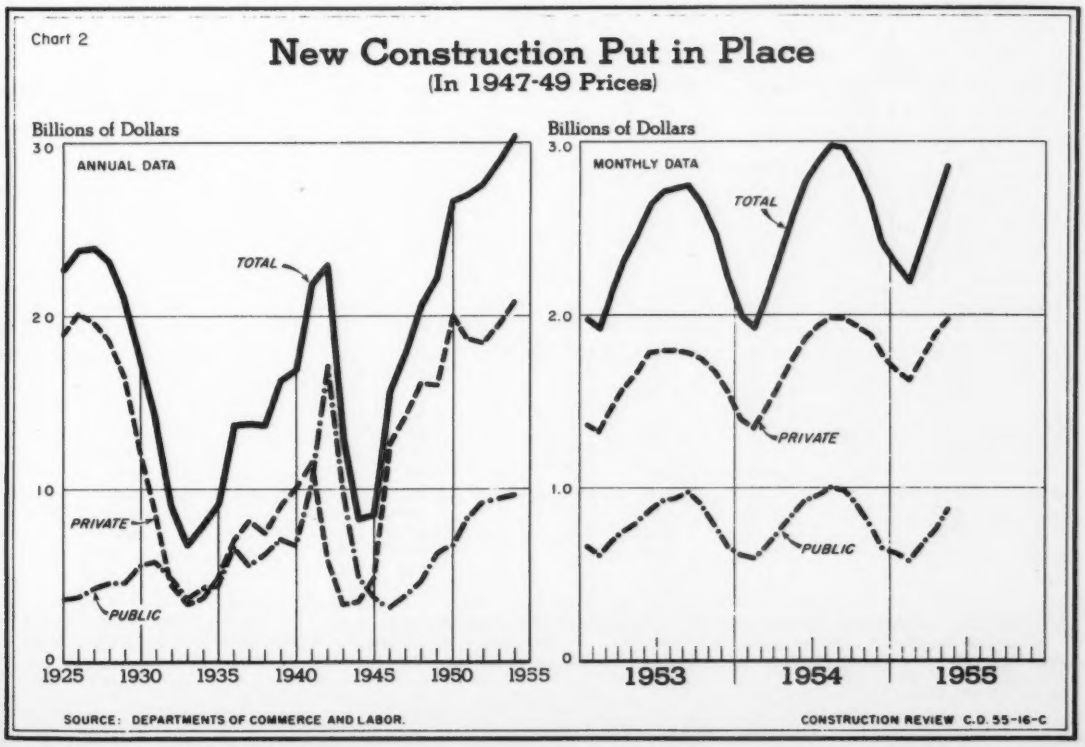

**Table 5.--New Public Construction Put in Place, by Source of Funds, Ownership, and Type of Construction**

| Source of funds, ownership, and type of construction | Value *(in millions of dollars)* | | | | | | | | Percent change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | 1955 | | | | | First 6 months | | June 1955 from-- | | First 6 months, 1954-55 |
| | June | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | 1954 | 1955 | June 1954 | May 1955 | |
| **TOTAL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION** | **1,112** | **694** | **795** | **912** | **1,059** | **1,157** | **5,307** | **5,364** | **+ 4** | **+ 9** | **+ 1** |
| Federal funds | 384 | 225 | 255 | 289 | 322 | 343 | 2,010 | 1,692 | -11 | + 7 | -16 |
| Direct Federal | 310 | 191 | 217 | 232 | 251 | 256 | 1,718 | 1,373 | -17 | + 2 | -20 |
| Federal grants-in-aid [1] | 74 | 34 | 38 | 57 | 71 | 87 | 292 | 319 | +18 | +23 | + 9 |
| State and local funds | 728 | 469 | 540 | 623 | 737 | 814 | 3,297 | 3,672 | +12 | +10 | +11 |
| **FEDERALLY OWNED** | **310** | **191** | **217** | **232** | **251** | **256** | **1,718** | **1,373** | **-17** | **+ 2** | **-20** |
| Residential building | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -100 |
| Nonresidential building | 145 | 73 | 85 | 77 | 78 | 75 | 888 | 483 | -48 | - 4 | -46 |
| Industrial | 129 | 70 | 81 | 72 | 72 | 69 | 829 | 454 | -47 | - 4 | -45 |
| Educational | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | -33 |
| Hospital | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 8 | -67 | 0 | -64 |
| Other nonresidential | 12 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 34 | 19 | -67 | 0 | -44 |
| Military facilities | 90 | 78 | 83 | 99 | 110 | 115 | 461 | 567 | +28 | + 5 | +23 |
| Highway | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 23 | 23 | 0 | +20 | 0 |
| Conservation and development | 68 | 38 | 45 | 51 | 57 | 59 | 339 | 295 | -13 | + 4 | -13 |
| All other federally owned | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED** | **802** | **503** | **578** | **680** | **808** | **901** | **3,589** | **3,991** | **+12** | **+12** | **+11** |
| Residential building | 26 | 21 | 23 | 22 | 22 | 21 | 194 | 131 | -19 | - 5 | -32 |
| Nonresidential building | 262 | 243 | 269 | 289 | 301 | 320 | 1,379 | 1,669 | +22 | + 6 | +21 |
| Educational | 182 | 178 | 190 | 202 | 210 | 220 | 991 | 1,182 | +21 | + 5 | +19 |
| Hospital | 32 | 22 | 27 | 29 | 31 | 33 | 155 | 165 | + 3 | + 6 | + 6 |
| Other nonresidential | 48 | 43 | 52 | 58 | 60 | 67 | 233 | 322 | +40 | +12 | +38 |
| Highway | 394 | 148 | 177 | 251 | 355 | 419 | 1,393 | 1,502 | + 6 | +18 | + 8 |
| Sewer and water | 85 | 70 | 83 | 89 | 97 | 99 | 460 | 515 | +16 | + 2 | +12 |
| All other State and locally owned | 35 | 21 | 26 | 29 | 33 | 42 | 163 | 174 | +20 | +27 | + 7 |

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Construction programs currently receiving Federal grants-in-aid cover highways, schools, hospitals, airports, and miscellaneous community facilities.

Table 6.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Ownership, Location, and Type of Structure

| Period | Total | Ownership | | Location [1] | | Type of structure | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Private | Public | Metropolitan | Nonmetropolitan | 1-family houses | Units in 2-or-more family structures: All | 2-4 family | 5-or-more family |
| | NUMBER OF NEW DWELLING UNITS (*in thousands*) | | | | | | | | |
| Year: 1946 | 670.5 | 662.5 | 8.0 | (2) | (2) | 590.0 | 80.5 | (3) | (3) |
| 1947 | 849.0 | 845.6 | 3.4 | (2) | (2) | 740.2 | 108.8 | (3) | (3) |
| 1948 | 931.6 | 913.5 | 18.1 | (2) | (2) | 766.6 | 165.0 | (3) | (3) |
| 1949 | 1,025.1 | 988.8 | 36.3 | (2) | (2) | 794.3 | 230.8 | (3) | (3) |
| 1950 | 1,396.0 | 1,352.2 | 43.8 | 1,021.6 | 374.4 | 1,154.1 | 241.9 | (3) | (3) |
| 1951 | 1,091.3 | 1,020.1 | 71.2 | 776.8 | 314.5 | 900.1 | 191.2 | (3) | (3) |
| 1952 | 1,127.0 | 1,068.5 | 58.5 | 794.9 | 332.1 | 942.5 | 184.5 | (3) | (3) |
| 1953 | 1,103.8 | 1,068.3 | 35.5 | 803.5 | 300.3 | 937.8 | 166.0 | (3) | (3) |
| 1954 | 1,220.4 | 1,201.7 | 18.7 | 896.9 | 323.5 | 1,077.9 | 142.5 | 51.9 | 90.6 |
| First 5 months, 1954 | 453.0 | 446.1 | 6.9 | 330.8 | 122.2 | 394.8 | 58.2 | 20.3 | 37.9 |
| First 5 months, 1955 | 553.5 | 547.3 | 6.2 | 411.3 | 142.2 | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) |
| 1954: May | 108.5 | 107.4 | 1.1 | 77.1 | 31.4 | 97.7 | 10.8 | 4.2 | 6.6 |
| June | 116.5 | 112.6 | 3.9 | 87.5 | 29.0 | 102.0 | 14.5 | 4.3 | 10.2 |
| July | 116.0 | 112.9 | 3.1 | 87.5 | 28.5 | 101.6 | 14.4 | 4.4 | 10.0 |
| August | 114.3 | 113.0 | 1.3 | 82.6 | 31.7 | 103.0 | 11.3 | 4.4 | 6.9 |
| September | 115.7 | 113.4 | 2.3 | 82.7 | 33.0 | 103.9 | 11.8 | 4.5 | 7.3 |
| October | 110.7 | 110.5 | .2 | 80.4 | 30.3 | 100.3 | 10.4 | 4.5 | 5.9 |
| November | 103.6 | 103.3 | .3 | 75.7 | 27.9 | 92.8 | 10.8 | 4.5 | 6.3 |
| December | 90.6 | 89.9 | .7 | 69.7 | 20.9 | 79.5 | 11.1 | 5.0 | 6.1 |
| 1955: January | 87.6 | 87.3 | .3 | 68.1 | 19.5 | 78.3 | 9.3 | 3.6 | 5.7 |
| February | 89.9 | 87.9 | 2.0 | 66.9 | 23.0 | 78.9 | 11.0 | 3.9 | 7.1 |
| March | 117.0 | 116.1 | .9 | 85.5 | 31.5 | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) |
| April | 127.0 | 126.5 | .5 | 93.3 | 33.7 | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) |
| May | 132.0 | 129.5 | 2.5 | 97.5 | 34.5 | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) |
| | Percent change | | | | | | | | |
| First 5 months, 1954-55 | +22.2 | +22.7 | -10.1 | +24.3 | +16.4 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| April-May, 1955 | + 3.9 | + 2.4 | (5) | + 4.5 | + 2.4 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| May 1954-55 | +21.7 | +20.6 | +127.3 | +26.5 | + 9.9 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| | PERCENT DISTRIBUTION | | | | | | | | |
| Year: 1946 | 100 | 98.8 | 1.2 | -- | -- | 88.0 | 12.0 | -- | -- |
| 1947 | 100 | 99.6 | .4 | -- | -- | 87.2 | 12.8 | -- | -- |
| 1948 | 100 | 98.1 | 1.9 | -- | -- | 82.3 | 17.7 | -- | -- |
| 1949 | 100 | 96.5 | 3.5 | -- | -- | 77.5 | 22.5 | -- | -- |
| 1950 | 100 | 96.9 | 3.1 | 73.2 | 26.8 | 82.7 | 17.3 | -- | -- |
| 1951 | 100 | 93.5 | 6.5 | 71.2 | 28.8 | 82.5 | 17.5 | -- | -- |
| 1952 | 100 | 94.8 | 5.2 | 70.5 | 29.5 | 83.6 | 16.4 | -- | -- |
| 1953 | 100 | 96.8 | 3.2 | 72.8 | 27.2 | 85.0 | 15.0 | -- | -- |
| 1954 | 100 | 98.5 | 1.5 | 73.5 | 26.5 | 88.3 | 11.7 | 4.3 | 7.4 |
| First 5 months, 1954 | 100 | 98.5 | 1.5 | 73.0 | 27.0 | 87.2 | 12.8 | 4.5 | 8.3 |
| First 5 months, 1955 | 100 | 98.9 | 1.1 | 74.3 | 25.7 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 1954: May | 100 | 99.0 | 1.0 | 71.1 | 28.9 | 90.0 | 10.0 | 3.9 | 6.1 |
| June | 100 | 96.7 | 3.3 | 75.1 | 24.9 | 87.6 | 12.4 | 3.7 | 8.7 |
| July | 100 | 97.3 | 2.7 | 75.4 | 24.6 | 87.6 | 12.4 | 3.8 | 8.6 |
| August | 100 | 98.9 | 1.1 | 72.3 | 27.7 | 90.1 | 9.9 | 3.9 | 6.0 |
| September | 100 | 98.0 | 2.0 | 71.5 | 28.5 | 89.8 | 10.2 | 3.9 | 6.3 |
| October | 100 | 99.8 | .2 | 72.6 | 27.4 | 90.6 | 9.4 | 4.1 | 5.3 |
| November | 100 | 99.7 | .3 | 73.1 | 26.9 | 89.6 | 10.4 | 4.3 | 6.1 |
| December | 100 | 99.2 | .8 | 76.9 | 23.1 | 87.7 | 12.3 | 5.5 | 6.8 |
| 1955: January | 100 | 99.7 | .3 | 77.7 | 22.3 | 89.4 | 10.6 | 4.1 | 6.5 |
| February | 100 | 97.8 | 2.2 | 74.4 | 25.6 | 87.8 | 12.2 | 4.3 | 7.9 |
| March | 100 | 99.2 | .8 | 73.1 | 26.9 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| April | 100 | 99.6 | .4 | 73.5 | 26.5 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| May | 100 | 98.1 | 1.9 | 73.9 | 26.1 | -- | -- | -- | -- |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Data by urban and rural-nonfarm classification for 1920-53 are available upon request. [2] Annual data not available before 1950; monthly data not available before January 1953. [3] Not available before January 1954. Tabulations showing the number of units in 2-family and 3-or-more family structures for 1920-53 are available upon request. [4] Not yet available. [5] Percent increase exceeds 300.

**Table 7.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate**

| Year | Number of new dwelling units *(in thousands)* | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
| 1946 | 598 | 661 | 752 | 693 | 677 | 655 | 645 | 663 | 634 | 658 | 643 | 646 |
| 1947 | 619 | 667 | 679 | 694 | 735 | 803 | 854 | 923 | 1,029 | 1,089 | 1,064 | 962 |
| 1948 | 851 | 762 | 925 | 1,015 | 1,000 | 1,008 | 986 | 912 | 886 | 838 | 827 | 812 |
| 1949 | 751 | 745 | 792 | 879 | 920 | 950 | 976 | 1,035 | 1,108 | 1,187 | 1,259 | 1,266 |
| 1950 | 1,262 | 1,283 | 1,406 | 1,358 | 1,469 | 1,496 | 1,471 | 1,476 | 1,278 | 1,174 | 1,115 | 1,292 |
| 1951 | 1,333 | 1,192 | 1,093 | 955 | 984 | 942 | 914 | 946 | 1,049 | 1,036 | 973 | 978 |
| 1952 | 996 | 1,158 | 1,104 | 1,003 | 1,018 | 1,011 | 1,064 | 1,044 | 1,092 | 1,156 | 1,110 | 1,111 |
| 1953 | 1,106 | 1,150 | 1,165 | 1,111 | 1,065 | 1,064 | 1,015 | 988 | 1,014 | 1,050 | 1,077 | 1,060 |
| 1954 | 1,056 | 1,152 | 1,130 | 1,102 | 1,083 | 1,175 | 1,188 | 1,211 | 1,248 | 1,287 | 1,393 | 1,478 |
| 1955 | 1,419 | 1,370 | 1,407 | 1,309 | 1,306 | | | | | | | |

Source: Department of Labor.

Chart 3

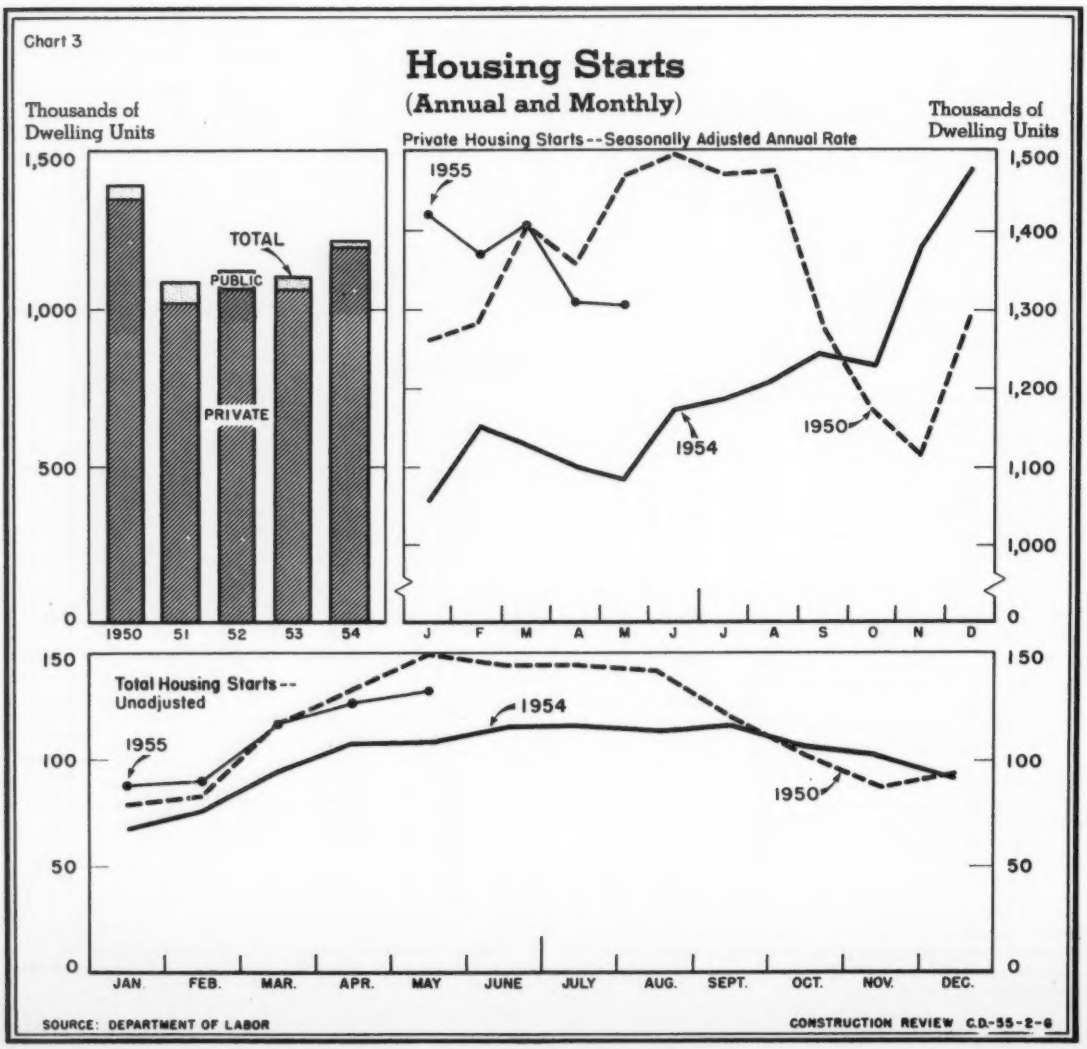

**Table 8.--New Private 1-Family Houses Started: Average Construction Cost**

| Year | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | AVERAGE CONSTRUCTION COST | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1946 | $5,250 | $5,400 | $5,850 | $5,575 | $5,475 | $5,425 | $5,375 | $5,450 | $5,450 | $5,625 | $5,675 | $5,575 | $5,525 |
| 1947 | 5,700 | 5,825 | 6,150 | 6,275 | 6,250 | 6,450 | 6,725 | 6,950 | 7,025 | 7,275 | 7,525 | 7,650 | 6,750 |
| 1948 | 7,250 | 7,450 | 7,550 | 7,775 | 7,950 | 8,050 | 8,050 | 8,100 | 7,900 | 7,825 | 7,900 | 7,900 | 7,850 |
| 1949 | 7,650 | 7,525 | 7,450 | 7,500 | 7,650 | 7,675 | 7,525 | 7,650 | 7,725 | 7,675 | 7,675 | 7,625 | 7,625 |
| 1950 | 7,625 | 7,850 | 8,225 | 8,450 | 8,450 | 8,750 | 8,875 | 9,125 | 8,900 | 9,200 | 9,075 | 9,200 | 8,675 |
| 1951 | 9,100 | 9,250 | 9,175 | 9,325 | 9,475 | 9,475 | 9,400 | 9,300 | 9,450 | 9,225 | 9,250 | 9,125 | 9,300 |
| 1952 | 9,050 | 9,275 | 9,350 | 9,550 | 9,575 | 9,675 | 9,500 | 9,425 | 9,600 | 9,525 | 9,550 | 9,525 | 9,475 |
| 1953 | 9,400 | 9,600 | 9,800 | 10,000 | 9,900 | 10,000 | 10,125 | 10,175 | 10,200 | 10,175 | 9,975 | 10,000 | 9,950 |
| 1954 | 9,750 | 9,800 | 10,075 | 10,600 | 10,850 | 10,750 | 10,850 | 10,750 | 10,675 | 10,800 | 10,850 | 11,075 | 10,625 |
| 1955 | 10,575 | 11,125 | (1) | (1) | (1) | | | | | | | | |
| | Percent change, 1954 to 1955 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | +8.5 | +13.5 | -- | -- | -- | | | | | | | | |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Not yet available.

**Table 9.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Region [1]**

| Region | Number of new dwelling units *(in thousands)* | | | | | | | | | | | Percent change, first 2 mos. 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | | | | | | | 1955 | | First 2 months | | |
| | Feb. | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | 1954 | 1955 | |
| **TOTAL** | **75.2** | **116.0** | **114.3** | **115.7** | **110.7** | **103.6** | **90.6** | **87.6** | **89.9** | **141.6** | **177.5** | **+25.4** |
| Northeast | 13.3 | 25.3 | 24.8 | 22.4 | 21.6 | 19.0 | 15.3 | 16.0 | 13.5 | 26.3 | 29.5 | +12.2 |
| North Central | 16.2 | 33.3 | 32.6 | 31.9 | 30.1 | 26.8 | 20.0 | 15.6 | 19.7 | 29.5 | 35.3 | +19.7 |
| South | 26.1 | 32.2 | 31.7 | 36.0 | 31.8 | 31.5 | 28.0 | 30.6 | 32.4 | 48.6 | 63.0 | +29.6 |
| West | 19.6 | 25.2 | 25.2 | 25.4 | 27.2 | 26.3 | 27.3 | 25.4 | 24.3 | 37.2 | 49.7 | +33.6 |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown under table 2.

Chart 4

## Housing Starts
### (Regional Trends)

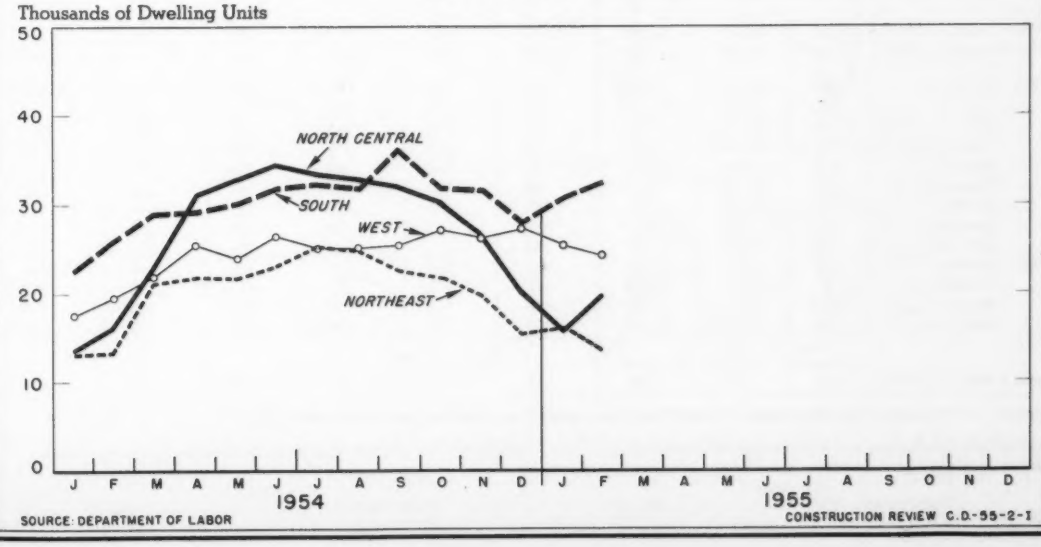

**Table 10.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units: Mortgages Applied for, Appraisals Requested, and Units Started Under FHA and VA Programs**

| Period | FHA-assisted units | | VA-assisted units | | Nonfarm dwelling units started | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | In applications | Started | In appraisal requests | Started | U. S. total | FHA-assisted | VA-assisted |
| | NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS | | | | PERCENT DISTRIBUTION | | |
| Year: 1950 | 397,696 | 486,681 | (1) | 200,000 | 100 | 36 | 15 |
| 1951 | 192,759 | 263,523 | 164,365 | 148,634 | 100 | 26 | 15 |
| 1952 | 267,915 | 279,901 | 226,299 | 141,274 | 100 | 26 | 13 |
| 1953 | 253,726 | 251,969 | 251,437 | 156,616 | 100 | 24 | 15 |
| 1954 | 338,581 | 276,307 | 535,412 | 307,038 | 100 | 23 | 26 |
| First 5 months, 1954 | 125,730 | 97,778 | 186,205 | 86,475 | 100 | 22 | 19 |
| First 5 months, 1955 | 152,893 | 114,739 | 317,471 | 156,300 | 100 | 21 | 29 |
| 1954: May | 30,327 | 24,004 | 52,245 | 24,991 | 100 | 22 | 23 |
| June | 35,207 | 27,666 | 52,749 | 27,891 | 100 | 25 | 25 |
| July | 30,143 | 25,430 | 52,291 | 26,810 | 100 | 23 | 24 |
| August | 32,166 | 26,999 | 55,350 | 33,259 | 100 | 24 | 29 |
| September | 34,831 | 25,882 | 51,265 | 33,938 | 100 | 23 | 30 |
| October | 29,325 | 24,665 | 45,572 | 33,501 | 100 | 22 | 30 |
| November | 26,851 | 26,344 | 47,729 | 36,017 | 100 | 26 | 35 |
| December | 24,328 | 21,543 | 44,251 | 29,147 | 100 | 24 | 33 |
| 1955: January | 25,647 | 20,021 | 46,204 | 26,069 | 100 | 23 | 30 |
| February | 28,349 | 17,204 | 64,192 | 28,048 | 100 | 19 | 32 |
| March | 35,597 | 23,785 | 71,939 | 29,850 | 100 | 20 | 26 |
| April | 33,101 | 25,773 | 65,856 | 34,486 | 100 | 23 | 27 |
| May | 30,199 | 27,956 | 69,280 | 37,847 | 100 | 22 | 29 |
| | Percent change | | | | | | |
| First 5 mos., 1954-55 | +22 | +17 | +70 | +81 | | | |

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Federal Housing Administration (HHFA) and the Veterans Administration. [1] Not available.

**Table 11.--Nonfarm Mortgage Recordings of $20,000 or Less: Number and Average Amount, and Total Amount by Type of Lender**

| Period | Total number *(in thousands)* | Average amount *(dollars)* | Total amount *(in millions of dollars)* recorded by-- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | All lenders | Savings and loan associations | Insurance companies | Commercial banks | Mutual savings banks | Individuals | All other lenders |
| Year: 1950 | 3,032 | 5,535 | 16,179 | 5,060 | 1,618 | 3,365 | 1,064 | 2,299 | 2,774 |
| 1951 | 2,878 | 5,701 | 16,405 | 5,295 | 1,615 | 3,370 | 1,013 | 2,539 | 2,572 |
| 1952 | 3,028 | 5,950 | 18,018 | 6,452 | 1,420 | 3,600 | 1,137 | 2,758 | 2,651 |
| 1953 | 3,164 | 6,241 | 19,747 | 7,365 | 1,480 | 3,680 | 1,327 | 2,841 | 3,055 |
| 1954 | 3,458 | 6,644 | 22,974 | 8,312 | 1,768 | 4,239 | 1,501 | 2,882 | 4,272 |
| First 4 months, 1954 | 1,008 | 6,323 | 6,374 | 2,319 | 466 | 1,205 | 384 | 901 | 1,098 |
| First 4 months, 1955 | 1,232 | 7,136 | 8,794 | 3,218 | 655 | 1,658 | 513 | 1,053 | 1,697 |
| 1954: April | 280 | 6,411 | 1,793 | 669 | 130 | 333 | 112 | 239 | 310 |
| May | 278 | 6,484 | 1,804 | 675 | 124 | 330 | 118 | 231 | 327 |
| June | 303 | 6,573 | 1,990 | 741 | 146 | 368 | 133 | 249 | 352 |
| July | 306 | 6,624 | 2,027 | 734 | 155 | 371 | 141 | 251 | 374 |
| August | 312 | 6,684 | 2,086 | 770 | 166 | 369 | 138 | 252 | 391 |
| September | 313 | 6,789 | 2,122 | 766 | 164 | 383 | 141 | 250 | 417 |
| October | 314 | 6,874 | 2,156 | 765 | 178 | 393 | 140 | 248 | 431 |
| November | 307 | 7,004 | 2,148 | 757 | 177 | 399 | 147 | 246 | 420 |
| December | 318 | 7,131 | 2,267 | 784 | 191 | 420 | 158 | 252 | 462 |
| 1955: January | 284 | 7,120 | 2,024 | 688 | 165 | 379 | 128 | 246 | 419 |
| February | 277 | 7,077 | 1,958 | 702 | 151 | 365 | 116 | 228 | 396 |
| March | 343 | 7,153 | 2,455 | 928 | 174 | 458 | 134 | 303 | 459 |
| April | 328 | 7,182 | 2,357 | 900 | 165 | 456 | 136 | 276 | 424 |
| | Percent change | | | | | | | | |
| First 4 mos., 1954-55 | +22 | +13 | +38 | +39 | +40 | +38 | +34 | +17 | +55 |

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Home Loan Bank Board (HHFA).

ERRATUM: In the May and June issues of Construction Review, in table 11, the average mortgage amount for cumulative periods should have read as follows:

*May issue*

| | |
|---|---|
| First 2 months, 1954 | $6,257 |
| First 2 months, 1955 | 7,099 |

*June issue*

| | |
|---|---|
| First 3 months, 1954 | $6,289 |
| First 3 months, 1955 | 7,120 |

Table 12.--Building Permit Activity: Current Summary, by Type of Building

| Type of building | Valuation (*in millions of dollars*) | | | | | | Percent change, May 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1955 | | | 1954 | First 5 months | | |
| | May | Apr. | Mar. | May | 1955 | 1954 | |
| **All building construction** [1] | **1,841.8** | **1,839.7** | **1,785.5** | **1,426.4** | **7,817.0** | **6,264.2** | **+29** |
| **Private** | **1,692.0** | **1,710.8** | **1,638.7** | **1,314.9** | **7,183.3** | **5,594.8** | **+29** |
| **Public** | **149.8** | **128.9** | **146.8** | **111.4** | **633.7** | **669.4** | **+34** |
| New dwelling units [2] | 1,200.0 | 1,199.7 | 1,136.0 | 859.3 | 4,981.6 | 3,676.9 | +40 |
| *Number of new dwelling units* | *(119,584)* | *(119,188)* | *(115,574)* | *(92,263)* | *(509,507)* | *(411,512)* | *(+30)* |
| New nonresidential building | 464.0 | 476.9 | 486.4 | 428.2 | 2,112.8 | 1,954.6 | + 8 |
| Commercial buildings | 158.2 | 156.2 | 146.9 | 128.4 | 691.0 | 582.5 | +23 |
| Stores and other mercantile buildings | 93.5 | 83.7 | 86.5 | 68.2 | 388.3 | 331.8 | +37 |
| All other commercial buildings | 64.7 | 72.5 | 60.4 | 60.2 | 302.7 | 250.7 | + 7 |
| Community buildings | 171.6 | 164.8 | 184.9 | 155.1 | 772.8 | 764.8 | +11 |
| Industrial buildings | 65.5 | 66.0 | 74.0 | 75.7 | 300.0 | 286.4 | -13 |
| All other nonresidential buildings | 68.7 | 89.9 | 80.7 | 68.9 | 349.1 | 320.9 | (3) |
| Additions, alterations, and repairs | 168.2 | 146.3 | 145.1 | 129.3 | 655.1 | 577.8 | +30 |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [2] Housekeeping only.
[3] Change of less than 0.5 percent.

Chart 5

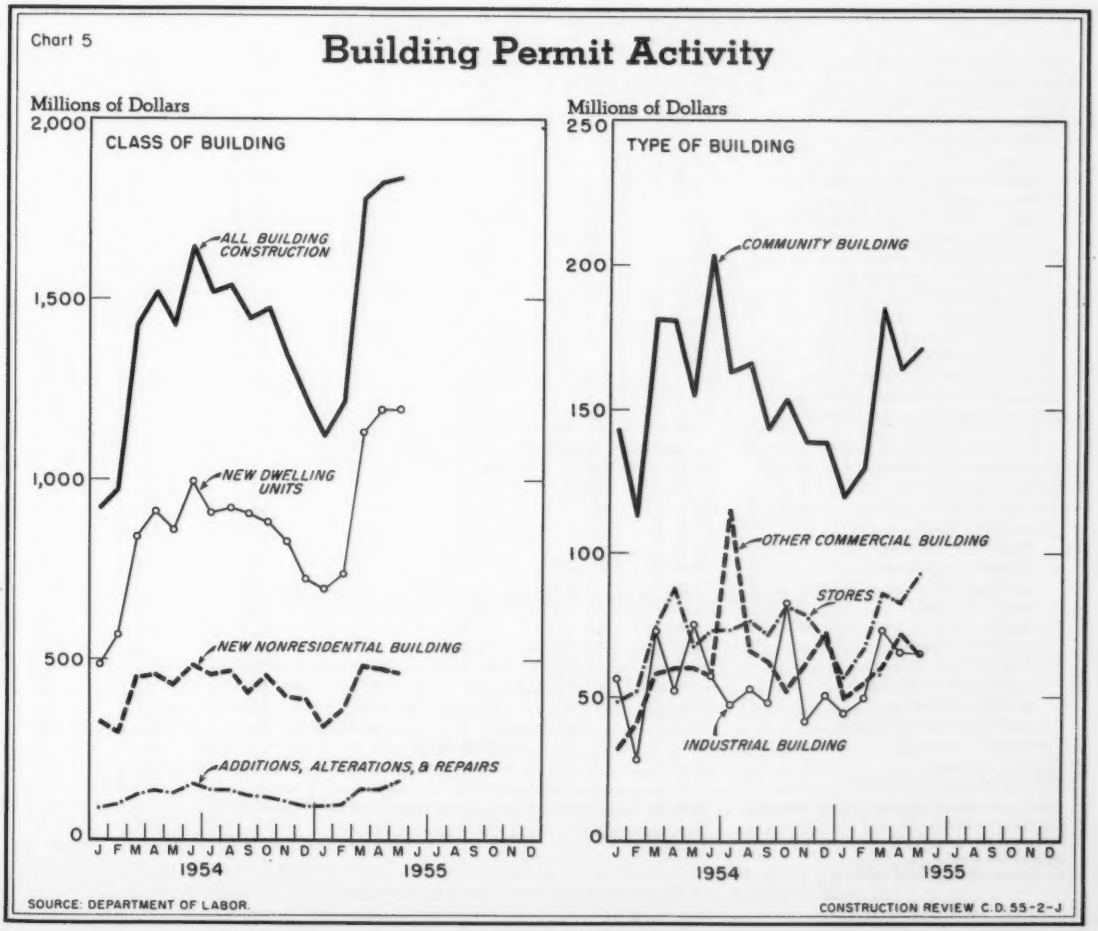

Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Class of Construction, Type of Building and Region [1]

| Class of construction and type of building | Valuation (*in millions of dollars*) | | | | | | Percent change, 1st 4 mos. 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | 1955 | | | First 4 months | | |
| | Apr. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | 1954 | 1955 | |
| | **UNITED STATES** | | | | | | |
| **All building construction** [2] | **1,522.3** | **1,223.1** | **1,785.5** | **1,839.7** | **4,837.8** | **5,975.2** | **+24** |
| New dwelling units [3] | 913.6 | 743.2 | 1,136.0 | 1,199.7 | 2,817.6 | 3,781.6 | +34 |
| New nonresidential building | 455.7 | 365.1 | 486.4 | 476.9 | 1,526.4 | 1,648.8 | + 8 |
| Commercial buildings | 147.7 | 122.9 | 146.9 | 156.2 | 454.1 | 532.8 | +17 |
| Amusement buildings | 12.3 | 12.6 | 6.0 | 10.2 | 31.9 | 34.9 | + 9 |
| Commercial garages | 6.9 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 4.1 | 18.9 | 14.8 | -22 |
| Gasoline and service stations | 11.0 | 8.5 | 12.2 | 13.5 | 34.1 | 43.0 | +26 |
| Office buildings | 29.4 | 31.7 | 39.2 | 44.7 | 105.6 | 145.3 | +38 |
| Stores and other mercantile bldgs. | 88.2 | 67.5 | 86.5 | 83.7 | 263.6 | 294.8 | +12 |
| Community buildings | 179.2 | 130.2 | 184.9 | 164.8 | 609.7 | 601.2 | - 1 |
| Educational buildings | 112.3 | 85.2 | 127.3 | 108.4 | 399.1 | 398.2 | (4) |
| Institutional buildings | 38.0 | 22.9 | 25.4 | 20.3 | 115.6 | 90.3 | -22 |
| Religious buildings | 28.9 | 22.2 | 32.2 | 36.0 | 95.0 | 112.6 | +19 |
| Garages, private residential | 15.9 | 5.5 | 13.2 | 19.7 | 39.4 | 44.1 | +12 |
| Industrial buildings | 52.5 | 49.8 | 74.0 | 66.0 | 210.7 | 234.5 | +11 |
| Public buildings | 22.0 | 16.2 | 23.6 | 24.2 | 83.8 | 80.6 | - 4 |
| Public utilities buildings | 20.4 | 28.5 | 24.4 | 31.5 | 63.0 | 97.6 | +55 |
| All other nonresidential buildings | 18.0 | 11.9 | 19.5 | 14.6 | 65.7 | 58.1 | -12 |
| Additions, alterations, and repairs | 139.7 | 100.5 | 145.1 | 146.3 | 448.5 | 486.9 | + 9 |
| | **Northeast** | | | | | | |
| **All building construction** [2] | **360.7** | **220.8** | **385.8** | **405.0** | **1,122.7** | **1,261.9** | **+12** |
| New dwelling units [3] | 203.2 | 124.6 | 244.8 | 262.1 | 646.0 | 773.4 | +20 |
| New nonresidential building | 122.1 | 73.4 | 106.2 | 107.5 | 367.0 | 373.9 | + 2 |
| Commercial buildings | 35.8 | 22.4 | 26.3 | 41.2 | 94.9 | 114.3 | +20 |
| Amusement buildings | 3.1 | .5 | 1.2 | 2.2 | 6.1 | 5.8 | - 5 |
| Commercial garages | 2.9 | .8 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 7.0 | 6.6 | - 6 |
| Gasoline and service stations | 1.9 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 5.8 | 7.1 | +22 |
| Office buildings | 7.1 | 9.2 | 5.8 | 18.6 | 19.1 | 43.7 | +129 |
| Stores and other mercantile bldgs. | 20.8 | 10.6 | 15.7 | 16.5 | 56.8 | 51.0 | -10 |
| Community buildings | 50.3 | 28.8 | 40.7 | 40.8 | 157.6 | 156.9 | (4) |
| Educational buildings | 29.2 | 22.2 | 26.9 | 29.1 | 108.8 | 110.7 | + 2 |
| Institutional buildings | 15.4 | 1.5 | 7.3 | 2.4 | 29.6 | 21.1 | -29 |
| Religious buildings | 5.7 | 5.1 | 6.5 | 9.3 | 19.3 | 25.1 | +30 |
| Garages, private residential | 3.7 | 1.1 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 9.0 | 9.4 | + 4 |
| Industrial buildings | 20.9 | 13.4 | 19.3 | 14.0 | 66.4 | 54.7 | -18 |
| Public buildings | 5.3 | .3 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 20.2 | 6.0 | -70 |
| Public utilities buildings | 3.2 | 3.2 | 7.4 | 3.0 | 9.1 | 16.3 | +79 |
| All other nonresidential buildings | 2.8 | 4.2 | 6.8 | 2.2 | 9.9 | 16.2 | +64 |
| Additions, alterations, and repairs | 31.6 | 20.4 | 32.5 | 33.6 | 101.0 | 106.2 | + 5 |
| | **North Central** | | | | | | |
| **All building construction** [2] | **479.0** | **312.8** | **501.4** | **590.5** | **1,357.2** | **1,643.3** | **+21** |
| New dwelling units [3] | 293.3 | 182.3 | 314.1 | 384.5 | 780.0 | 1,023.4 | +31 |
| New nonresidential building | 141.5 | 107.6 | 142.9 | 163.5 | 450.6 | 488.3 | + 8 |
| Commercial buildings | 47.0 | 29.1 | 37.4 | 45.6 | 122.9 | 139.4 | +13 |
| Amusement buildings | 2.8 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 5.4 | 12.1 | 10.7 | -12 |
| Commercial garages | 2.4 | .4 | .6 | .7 | 7.4 | 2.2 | -70 |
| Gasoline and service stations | 3.8 | 2.2 | 3.5 | 4.9 | 9.8 | 12.9 | +32 |
| Office buildings | 6.3 | 6.8 | 7.1 | 10.1 | 21.7 | 28.8 | +33 |
| Stores and other mercantile bldgs. | 31.8 | 18.5 | 24.8 | 24.4 | 71.9 | 84.8 | +18 |
| Community buildings | 48.9 | 50.9 | 52.1 | 52.0 | 164.9 | 176.1 | + 7 |
| Educational buildings | 25.4 | 33.2 | 34.2 | 37.1 | 103.9 | 117.3 | +13 |
| Institutional buildings | 14.4 | 12.4 | 7.5 | 3.5 | 35.3 | 24.9 | -29 |
| Religious buildings | 9.0 | 5.3 | 10.4 | 11.4 | 25.7 | 34.0 | +32 |
| Garages, private residential | 8.1 | 1.5 | 5.7 | 11.0 | 16.0 | 19.8 | +24 |
| Industrial buildings | 18.9 | 11.1 | 29.3 | 26.1 | 72.7 | 81.7 | +12 |
| Public buildings | 4.4 | 8.1 | 9.0 | 12.8 | 23.9 | 31.8 | +33 |
| Public utilities buildings | 7.8 | 6.0 | 6.8 | 13.5 | 28.3 | 32.6 | +15 |
| All other nonresidential buildings | 6.4 | 1.0 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 21.8 | 6.7 | -69 |
| Additions, alterations, and repairs | 42.1 | 22.1 | 42.7 | 39.3 | 116.2 | 124.7 | + 7 |

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Class of Construction, Type of Building, and Region [1]--Continued**

| Class of construction and type of building | Valuation *(in millions of dollars)* | | | | | | Percent change, 1st 4 mos. 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | 1955 | | | First 4 months | | |
| | Apr. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | 1954 | 1955 | |
| | | | | South | | | |
| **All building construction** [2] | **342.2** | **379.1** | **457.2** | **414.4** | **1,238.9** | **1,591.9** | **+28** |
| New dwelling units [3] | 193.9 | 227.0 | 281.8 | 255.6 | 685.2 | 970.7 | +42 |
| New nonresidential building | 109.6 | 113.7 | 130.8 | 110.1 | 413.3 | 455.8 | +10 |
| Commercial buildings | 39.4 | 44.8 | 43.3 | 39.1 | 149.7 | 158.1 | + 6 |
| Amusement buildings | 4.2 | 7.9 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 8.9 | 12.8 | +44 |
| Commercial garages | .6 | 1.3 | .6 | 1.0 | 2.8 | 4.2 | +50 |
| Gasoline and service stations | 3.3 | 3.3 | 4.0 | 3.4 | 11.9 | 14.1 | +18 |
| Office buildings | 9.8 | 10.7 | 13.4 | 8.2 | 40.5 | 40.3 | (4) |
| Stores and other mercantile bldgs. | 21.5 | 21.5 | 23.0 | 24.9 | 85.6 | 86.7 | + 1 |
| Community buildings | 45.8 | 32.2 | 56.1 | 40.7 | 163.9 | 165.4 | + 1 |
| Educational buildings | 33.9 | 16.8 | 37.8 | 17.8 | 94.3 | 91.1 | - 3 |
| Institutional buildings | 3.1 | 6.7 | 7.7 | 12.6 | 35.6 | 36.5 | + 3 |
| Religious buildings | 8.9 | 8.7 | 10.7 | 10.4 | 34.1 | 37.9 | +11 |
| Garages, private residential | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 5.7 | 6.0 | + 5 |
| Industrial buildings | 6.4 | 13.3 | 8.2 | 11.2 | 39.1 | 44.5 | +14 |
| Public buildings | 8.2 | 1.9 | 8.0 | 4.7 | 23.1 | 27.4 | +19 |
| Public utilities buildings | 4.7 | 17.5 | 8.5 | 8.1 | 15.3 | 37.7 | +146 |
| All other nonresidential buildings | 3.4 | 2.8 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 16.5 | 16.7 | + 1 |
| Additions, alterations, and repairs | 36.0 | 32.3 | 36.9 | 39.2 | 125.5 | 140.2 | +12 |
| | | | | West | | | |
| **All building construction** [2] | **340.4** | **310.4** | **441.0** | **429.8** | **1,118.9** | **1,478.1** | **+32** |
| New dwelling units [3] | 223.3 | 209.3 | 295.3 | 297.5 | 706.5 | 1,014.1 | +44 |
| New nonresidential building | 82.5 | 70.5 | 106.5 | 95.9 | 295.6 | 331.0 | +12 |
| Commercial buildings | 25.6 | 26.7 | 39.9 | 30.4 | 86.6 | 121.0 | +40 |
| Amusement buildings | 2.3 | 3.0 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 4.7 | 5.6 | +19 |
| Commercial garages | 1.0 | .3 | .4 | .8 | 1.7 | 1.8 | + 6 |
| Gasoline and service stations | 1.9 | 1.6 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 6.6 | 8.9 | +35 |
| Office buildings | 6.2 | 4.9 | 13.0 | 7.8 | 24.3 | 32.5 | +34 |
| Stores and other mercantile bldgs. | 14.1 | 16.9 | 22.9 | 17.9 | 49.3 | 72.2 | +46 |
| Community buildings | 34.1 | 18.3 | 36.0 | 31.2 | 123.2 | 102.7 | -17 |
| Educational buildings | 23.8 | 13.0 | 28.4 | 24.4 | 92.1 | 79.1 | -14 |
| Institutional buildings | 5.0 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 15.2 | 7.8 | -49 |
| Religious buildings | 5.3 | 3.0 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 15.9 | 15.7 | - 1 |
| Garages, private residential | 2.5 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 8.7 | 8.9 | + 2 |
| Industrial buildings | 6.2 | 12.0 | 17.2 | 14.7 | 32.4 | 53.5 | +65 |
| Public buildings | 4.0 | 5.9 | 3.9 | 4.4 | 16.7 | 15.4 | - 8 |
| Public utilities buildings | 4.7 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 6.8 | 10.3 | 10.9 | + 6 |
| All other nonresidential buildings | 5.4 | 4.0 | 5.3 | 5.5 | 17.5 | 18.5 | + 6 |
| Additions, alterations, and repairs | 30.0 | 25.6 | 33.0 | 34.2 | 105.7 | 115.7 | + 9 |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown under table 2. [2] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [3] Housekeeping only. [4] Change of less than 0.5 percent.

## NEW DWELLING UNITS AUTHORIZED BY LOCAL BUILDING PERMITS

The monthly report New Dwelling Units Authorized by Local Building Permits issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor, has recently been expanded to include data for 1,000 additional localities. Beginning with the issue showing January-February 1955 data, the publication presents information for virtually all (about 7,000) building-permit-issuing places. As of the 1950 Census, these places accounted for about 75 percent of the total nonfarm population and for 92 percent of the nonfarm population in the standard metropolitan areas. The dwelling-unit figures are listed by State for places within the standard metropolitan areas, as well as for cities, townships, and villages in the nonmetropolitan areas of each State.

The data are used in gaging the degree to which new housing is matching economic and population growth in particular places and areas, and in analyzing local markets for housing materials and equipment.

Issues of New Dwelling Units Authorized by Local Building Permits may be obtained free by writing to the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

**Table 14.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation and Number of New Dwelling Units, by Type of Structure, Public-Private Ownership, and Region [1]**

*(Housekeeping units only)*

| Ownership and type of structure | Valuation *(in millions of dollars)* | | | | | Number of dwelling units | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | 1955 | | First 4 months | | 1954 | 1955 | | First 4 months | |
| | Apr. | Mar. | Apr. | 1954 | 1955 | Apr. | Mar. | Apr. | 1954 | 1955 |
| **UNITED STATES** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **All new dwelling units** | **913.6** | **1,136.0** | **1,199.7** | **2,817.6** | **3,781.6** | **100,701** | **115,574** | **119,188** | **319,249** | **389,923** |
| Privately owned | 904.3 | 1,127.8 | 1,192.6 | 2,763.1 | 3,744.4 | 99,595 | 114,665 | 118,386 | 313,150 | 385,827 |
| 1-family | 831.1 | 1,034.7 | 1,124.9 | 2,479.0 | 3,481.0 | 88,189 | 100,521 | 107,449 | 266,063 | 343,092 |
| 2-4 family | 29.1 | 34.4 | 31.1 | 99.1 | 106.1 | 4,735 | 5,447 | 4,804 | 17,115 | 17,378 |
| 5-or-more family | 44.1 | 58.8 | 36.7 | 185.0 | 157.5 | 6,671 | 8,697 | 6,133 | 29,972 | 25,357 |
| Publicly owned | 9.3 | 8.2 | 7.1 | 54.4 | 37.3 | 1,106 | 909 | 802 | 6,099 | 4,096 |
| **Northeast** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **All new dwelling units** | **203.2** | **244.8** | **262.1** | **646.0** | **773.4** | **21,480** | **23,538** | **25,660** | **70,036** | **76,033** |
| Privately owned | 201.0 | 239.3 | 255.0 | 625.8 | 758.7 | 21,240 | 22,907 | 24,858 | 67,934 | 74,305 |
| 1-family | 173.4 | 208.8 | 233.2 | 519.9 | 672.4 | 17,712 | 19,253 | 21,955 | 53,052 | 63,309 |
| 2-4 family | 5.5 | 9.5 | 7.1 | 18.5 | 22.7 | 795 | 1,307 | 1,005 | 2,733 | 3,243 |
| 5-or-more family | 22.2 | 21.1 | 14.8 | 87.5 | 63.8 | 2,733 | 2,347 | 1,898 | 12,149 | 7,753 |
| Publicly owned | 2.2 | 5.5 | 7.1 | 20.1 | 14.7 | 240 | 631 | 802 | 2,102 | 1,728 |
| **North Central** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **All new dwelling units** | **293.3** | **314.1** | **384.5** | **780.0** | **1,023.4** | **28,123** | **26,961** | **32,759** | **73,840** | **88,910** |
| Privately owned | 287.2 | 314.1 | 384.5 | 763.7 | 1,016.9 | 27,399 | 26,961 | 32,759 | 72,016 | 88,250 |
| 1-family | 272.7 | 296.7 | 371.5 | 720.3 | 973.2 | 25,507 | 24,835 | 31,133 | 66,543 | 82,709 |
| 2-4 family | 8.3 | 8.7 | 9.2 | 22.1 | 26.8 | 1,014 | 984 | 1,053 | 2,718 | 3,110 |
| 5-or-more family | 6.2 | 8.7 | 3.8 | 21.3 | 16.9 | 878 | 1,142 | 573 | 2,755 | 2,431 |
| Publicly owned | 6.0 | 0 | 0 | 16.3 | 6.5 | 724 | 0 | 0 | 1,824 | 660 |
| **South** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **All new dwelling units** | **193.9** | **281.8** | **255.6** | **685.2** | **970.7** | **25,466** | **33,003** | **29,565** | **91,280** | **115,473** |
| Privately owned | 193.9 | 281.5 | 255.6 | 674.9 | 966.9 | 25,466 | 32,951 | 29,565 | 90,034 | 115,016 |
| 1-family | 183.4 | 262.3 | 245.5 | 625.4 | 917.2 | 23,186 | 29,257 | 27,313 | 79,067 | 104,216 |
| 2-4 family | 5.9 | 6.9 | 5.6 | 21.0 | 23.1 | 1,203 | 1,529 | 1,200 | 4,685 | 5,150 |
| 5-or-more family | 4.6 | 12.3 | 4.4 | 28.5 | 26.5 | 1,077 | 2,165 | 1,052 | 6,282 | 5,650 |
| Publicly owned | 0 | .3 | 0 | 10.3 | 3.8 | 0 | 52 | 0 | 1,246 | 457 |
| **West** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **All new dwelling units** | **223.3** | **295.3** | **297.5** | **706.5** | **1,014.1** | **25,632** | **32,072** | **31,204** | **84,093** | **109,507** |
| Privately owned | 222.1 | 292.9 | 297.5 | 698.7 | 1,001.9 | 25,490 | 31,846 | 31,204 | 83,166 | 108,256 |
| 1-family | 201.6 | 266.9 | 274.7 | 613.3 | 918.3 | 21,784 | 27,176 | 27,048 | 67,401 | 92,858 |
| 2-4 family | 9.4 | 9.3 | 9.2 | 37.6 | 33.5 | 1,723 | 1,627 | 1,546 | 6,979 | 5,875 |
| 5-or-more family | 11.0 | 16.7 | 13.7 | 47.8 | 50.2 | 1,983 | 3,043 | 2,610 | 8,786 | 9,523 |
| Publicly owned | 1.1 | 2.3 | 0 | 7.7 | 12.2 | 142 | 226 | 0 | 927 | 1,251 |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown under table 2.

Chart 6.

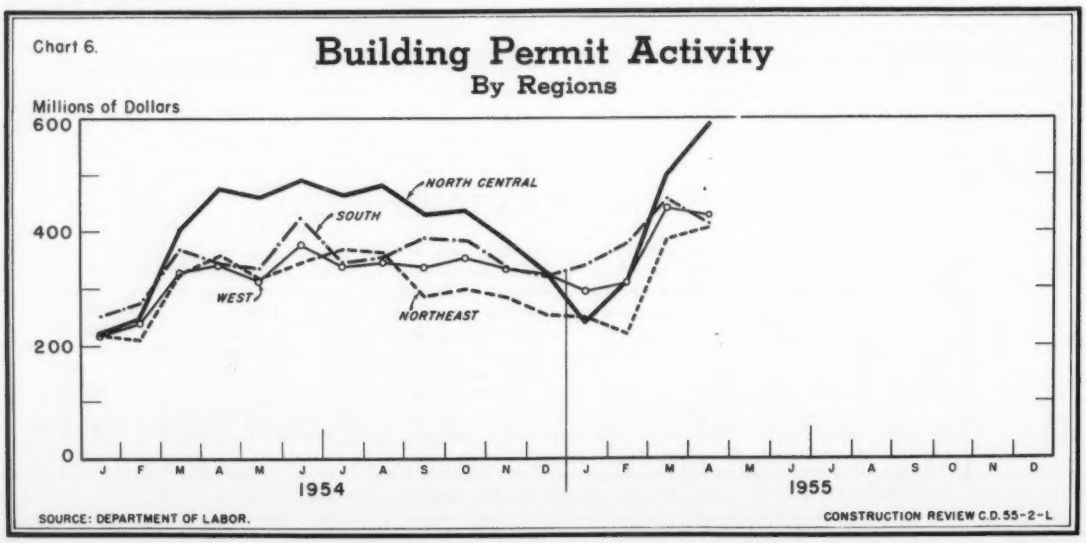

**Table 15.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State**

*(Millions of dollars)*

| State | 1954 | | | 1955 | | | First 3 months | | Percent change, 1st 3 mos. 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | 1954 | 1955 | |
| **ALL STATES** | **1,424.9** | **1,345.2** | **1,226.7** | **1,126.8** | **1,223.1** | **1,785.5** | **3,315.5** | **4,135.5** | **+25** |
| **Metropolitan areas** | **1,150.0** | **1,078.8** | **1,010.2** | **926.1** | **993.7** | **1,431.5** | **2,690.5** | **3,351.6** | **+25** |
| **Nonmetropolitan areas** | **274.9** | **266.4** | **216.5** | **200.7** | **229.4** | **354.0** | **625.0** | **783.9** | **+25** |
| Alabama | 11.3 | 12.5 | 7.8 | 9.9 | 14.3 | 15.4 | 29.3 | 39.6 | +35 |
| Arizona | 16.4 | 11.0 | 12.5 | 12.1 | 15.4 | 17.2 | 32.3 | 44.6 | +38 |
| Arkansas | 3.9 | 4.6 | 6.1 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 5.2 | 12.1 | 13.5 | +12 |
| California | 205.6 | 226.6 | 222.9 | 206.3 | 209.9 | 308.4 | 538.3 | 724.6 | +35 |
| Colorado | 16.5 | 17.0 | 24.2 | 23.1 | 18.0 | 25.9 | 43.6 | 67.0 | +54 |
| Connecticut | 28.9 | 38.2 | 21.4 | 17.1 | 17.3 | 37.8 | 59.0 | 72.1 | +22 |
| Delaware | 4.6 | 2.4 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 2.3 | 6.9 | 7.8 | 12.1 | +55 |
| District of Columbia | 9.7 | 18.6 | 9.5 | 2.3 | 5.0 | 10.0 | 14.3 | 17.4 | +22 |
| Florida | 52.7 | 55.9 | 56.7 | 57.2 | 61.2 | 71.3 | 153.0 | 189.7 | +24 |
| Georgia | 20.9 | 17.9 | 20.1 | 24.7 | 23.7 | 23.6 | 56.5 | 72.0 | +27 |
| Idaho | 2.9 | 3.0 | 1.4 | .7 | 1.7 | 3.2 | 4.9 | 5.5 | +12 |
| Illinois | 74.6 | 83.5 | 70.2 | 49.8 | 63.0 | 118.6 | 186.3 | 231.4 | +24 |
| Indiana | 26.2 | 26.1 | 20.0 | 18.2 | 19.8 | 39.7 | 67.0 | 77.8 | +16 |
| Iowa | 9.4 | 15.2 | 7.8 | 5.5 | 5.9 | 22.0 | 21.6 | 33.3 | +54 |
| Kansas | 14.6 | 24.9 | 13.8 | 9.5 | 14.3 | 18.1 | 34.2 | 41.9 | +23 |
| Kentucky | 36.7 | 11.8 | 6.6 | 10.7 | 8.4 | 13.4 | 48.2 | 32.5 | -33 |
| Louisiana | 18.0 | 17.4 | 16.3 | 27.1 | 34.6 | 24.5 | 47.0 | 86.2 | +83 |
| Maine | 1.9 | 2.7 | 4.7 | .5 | 1.7 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 4.8 | +41 |
| Maryland | 33.0 | 32.9 | 30.9 | 35.3 | 42.3 | 38.2 | 84.1 | 115.7 | +38 |
| Massachusetts | 39.1 | 36.6 | 27.7 | 20.4 | 24.3 | 45.2 | 72.8 | 89.9 | +23 |
| Michigan | 85.5 | 68.4 | 69.7 | 54.8 | 62.2 | 92.2 | 179.9 | 209.2 | +16 |
| Minnesota | 42.2 | 27.8 | 25.0 | 12.8 | 16.1 | 32.4 | 66.8 | 61.3 | - 8 |
| Mississippi | 5.3 | 4.2 | 7.7 | 3.3 | 4.7 | 5.4 | 14.6 | 13.4 | - 8 |
| Missouri | 30.9 | 20.6 | 23.5 | 19.0 | 28.1 | 30.9 | 68.0 | 78.0 | +15 |
| Montana | 3.2 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 1.3 | .8 | 2.9 | 5.4 | 5.0 | - 7 |
| Nebraska | 7.7 | 8.1 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 2.7 | 9.8 | 13.5 | 15.8 | +17 |
| Nevada | 8.1 | 6.3 | 8.7 | 6.2 | 7.5 | 7.2 | 15.7 | 20.8 | +32 |
| New Hampshire | 1.8 | 3.1 | 4.4 | .9 | .8 | 4.2 | 3.3 | 5.9 | +79 |
| New Jersey | 72.8 | 55.8 | 49.4 | 48.9 | 44.3 | 78.8 | 151.7 | 172.0 | +13 |
| New Mexico | 9.7 | 5.9 | 3.7 | 6.8 | 5.8 | 8.4 | 20.0 | 21.0 | + 5 |
| New York | 113.7 | 100.9 | 101.8 | 98.4 | 81.0 | 126.6 | 307.0 | 306.2 | (1) |
| North Carolina | 15.6 | 11.5 | 12.9 | 15.8 | 19.7 | 26.0 | 43.5 | 61.5 | +41 |
| North Dakota | 1.7 | 2.2 | 1.1 | .3 | .3 | 1.2 | 3.1 | 1.8 | -42 |
| Ohio | 79.7 | 76.0 | 65.8 | 50.1 | 64.2 | 101.0 | 173.7 | 215.3 | +24 |
| Oklahoma | 11.7 | 12.8 | 8.8 | 10.4 | 11.9 | 17.4 | 30.6 | 39.7 | +30 |
| Oregon | 14.1 | 10.7 | 9.7 | 8.3 | 13.1 | 13.4 | 27.4 | 34.8 | +27 |
| Pennsylvania | 62.9 | 45.8 | 44.1 | 60.4 | 49.3 | 85.6 | 152.7 | 195.3 | +28 |
| Rhode Island | 4.6 | 3.8 | 2.1 | 3.4 | 1.9 | 4.3 | 11.5 | 9.5 | -17 |
| South Carolina | 5.7 | 5.4 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 18.7 | 15.8 | 30.8 | +95 |
| South Dakota | 1.6 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 4.7 | +62 |
| Tennessee | 17.2 | 14.5 | 13.2 | 18.9 | 14.3 | 19.0 | 39.6 | 52.3 | +32 |
| Texas | 79.6 | 83.3 | 87.5 | 83.8 | 90.0 | 107.9 | 201.9 | 281.7 | +40 |
| Utah | 8.1 | 9.0 | 4.9 | 3.1 | 4.2 | 14.6 | 15.8 | 21.8 | +38 |
| Vermont | .4 | .6 | .8 | .2 | .2 | .8 | .6 | 1.2 | +100 |
| Virginia | 39.8 | 30.0 | 25.9 | 26.6 | 33.7 | 49.1 | 87.9 | 109.4 | +24 |
| Washington | 34.4 | 37.2 | 31.2 | 27.9 | 33.3 | 38.4 | 71.0 | 99.6 | +40 |
| West Virginia | 4.4 | 4.0 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 2.7 | 5.4 | 10.6 | 10.2 | - 4 |
| Wisconsin | 34.3 | 29.9 | 23.0 | 14.2 | 35.2 | 33.1 | 61.0 | 82.4 | +35 |
| Wyoming | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.1 | .9 | 1.5 | 4.1 | 3.5 | -15 |

Source: Department of Labor.

[1] Change of less than 0.5 percent.

**Table 16.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State**

*(Housekeeping units only)*

| State | 1954 | | | 1955 | | | First 3 months | | Percent change, 1st 3 mos. 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | 1954 | 1955 | |
| **ALL STATES** | **95,389** | **88,008** | **77,409** | **76,268** | **78,864** | **115,574** | **218,548** | **270,735** | **+24** |
| **Metropolitan areas** | **76,788** | **70,192** | **63,233** | **61,710** | **62,580** | **92,628** | **177,108** | **216,947** | **+22** |
| **Nonmetropolitan areas** | **18,601** | **17,816** | **14,176** | **14,558** | **16,284** | **22,946** | **41,440** | **53,788** | **+30** |
| Alabama | 1,044 | 977 | 724 | 870 | 1,265 | 1,348 | 2,448 | 3,483 | +42 |
| Arizona | 940 | 974 | 1,208 | 1,161 | 1,321 | 1,453 | 2,403 | 3,935 | +64 |
| Arkansas | 325 | 448 | 313 | 339 | 407 | 513 | 872 | 1,259 | +44 |
| California | 16,778 | 17,513 | 18,456 | 16,736 | 15,881 | 23,283 | 42,842 | 55,900 | +30 |
| Colorado | 1,499 | 1,661 | 1,654 | 2,211 | 1,498 | 2,164 | 3,305 | 5,873 | +78 |
| Connecticut | 1,552 | 1,532 | 994 | 892 | 886 | 2,005 | 3,124 | 3,783 | +21 |
| Delaware | 226 | 161 | 111 | 122 | 152 | 426 | 428 | 700 | +64 |
| District of Columbia | 396 | 90 | 324 | 74 | 225 | 966 | 857 | 1,265 | +48 |
| Florida | 4,168 | 4,961 | 4,085 | 5,058 | 4,510 | 5,167 | 11,048 | 14,735 | +33 |
| Georgia | 1,743 | 1,890 | 1,688 | 1,534 | 1,751 | 2,096 | 4,546 | 5,381 | +18 |
| Idaho | 113 | 206 | 94 | 50 | 64 | 218 | 227 | 332 | +46 |
| Illinois | 4,554 | 4,595 | 3,634 | 2,421 | 3,220 | 6,838 | 9,641 | 12,479 | +29 |
| Indiana | 1,626 | 1,997 | 928 | 1,052 | 1,074 | 2,040 | 3,510 | 4,166 | +19 |
| Iowa | 562 | 780 | 506 | 327 | 359 | 914 | 1,056 | 1,600 | +52 |
| Kansas | 983 | 1,179 | 1,014 | 812 | 837 | 1,097 | 2,325 | 2,746 | +18 |
| Kentucky | 1,229 | 764 | 520 | 662 | 607 | 1,049 | 2,210 | 2,318 | + 5 |
| Louisiana | 1,291 | 1,077 | 907 | 1,133 | 1,381 | 1,650 | 3,009 | 4,164 | +38 |
| Maine | 44 | 95 | 52 | 36 | 24 | 76 | 89 | 136 | +53 |
| Maryland | 2,614 | 2,504 | 2,451 | 2,547 | 3,824 | 2,800 | 6,587 | 9,171 | +39 |
| Massachusetts | 2,225 | 1,988 | 1,460 | 1,463 | 1,448 | 2,488 | 4,315 | 5,399 | +25 |
| Michigan | 4,597 | 4,076 | 2,896 | 3,239 | 3,138 | 5,154 | 10,122 | 11,531 | +14 |
| Minnesota | 1,110 | 1,526 | 1,043 | 613 | 795 | 1,534 | 2,228 | 2,942 | +32 |
| Mississippi | 291 | 355 | 364 | 250 | 376 | 336 | 872 | 962 | +10 |
| Missouri | 1,954 | 1,053 | 939 | 1,047 | 1,984 | 1,407 | 4,288 | 4,438 | + 3 |
| Montana | 127 | 233 | 121 | 108 | 31 | 118 | 195 | 257 | +32 |
| Nebraska | 469 | 575 | 391 | 281 | 205 | 682 | 788 | 1,168 | +48 |
| Nevada | 469 | 214 | 221 | 271 | 401 | 239 | 1,091 | 911 | -16 |
| New Hampshire | 143 | 159 | 105 | 73 | 56 | 161 | 221 | 290 | +31 |
| New Jersey | 6,920 | 3,416 | 2,671 | 3,740 | 2,746 | 4,519 | 11,672 | 11,005 | - 6 |
| New Mexico | 703 | 569 | 297 | 635 | 580 | 543 | 1,766 | 1,758 | (1) |
| New York | 7,605 | 5,864 | 6,557 | 5,638 | 4,260 | 9,183 | 20,886 | 19,110 | - 9 |
| North Carolina | 1,194 | 818 | 849 | 1,019 | 1,320 | 1,487 | 3,222 | 3,826 | +19 |
| North Dakota | 111 | 169 | 40 | 10 | 1 | 64 | 148 | 75 | -49 |
| Ohio | 3,984 | 4,226 | 3,690 | 2,569 | 3,458 | 5,080 | 8,541 | 11,107 | +30 |
| Oklahoma | 966 | 944 | 681 | 870 | 921 | 1,298 | 2,262 | 3,089 | +37 |
| Oregon | 690 | 646 | 541 | 540 | 529 | 684 | 1,480 | 1,753 | +18 |
| Pennsylvania | 3,788 | 2,421 | 1,965 | 2,084 | 3,012 | 4,757 | 7,240 | 9,853 | +36 |
| Rhode Island | 438 | 269 | 190 | 276 | 151 | 324 | 978 | 751 | -23 |
| South Carolina | 418 | 378 | 343 | 511 | 495 | 519 | 1,159 | 1,525 | +32 |
| South Dakota | 111 | 232 | 105 | 68 | 63 | 172 | 216 | 303 | +40 |
| Tennessee | 1,478 | 1,162 | 1,288 | 2,074 | 1,282 | 1.481 | 3,317 | 4,837 | +46 |
| Texas | 6,243 | 6,104 | 5,635 | 6,443 | 6,581 | 7,822 | 14,536 | 20,846 | +43 |
| Utah | 616 | 560 | 322 | 218 | 219 | 964 | 1,118 | 1,401 | +25 |
| Vermont | 24 | 41 | 11 | 15 | 6 | 25 | 31 | 46 | +48 |
| Virginia | 3,036 | 2,599 | 1,680 | 1,844 | 2,155 | 3,696 | 7,899 | 7,695 | - 3 |
| Washington | 1,980 | 1,866 | 1,980 | 1,390 | 2,246 | 2,315 | 3,768 | 5,951 | +58 |
| West Virginia | 286 | 227 | 104 | 153 | 150 | 349 | 542 | 652 | +20 |
| Wisconsin | 1,629 | 1,767 | 1,153 | 706 | 911 | 1,979 | 2,854 | 3,596 | +26 |
| Wyoming | 97 | 147 | 104 | 83 | 58 | 91 | 266 | 232 | -13 |

Source: Department of Labor.

[1] Change of less than 0.5 percent.

**Table 17.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, in Selected Metropolitan Areas**

*(Millions of dollars)*

| Metropolitan area | 1954 | | | 1955 | | | First 3 months | | Percent change, 1st 3 mos. 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | 1954 | 1955 | |
| Atlanta, Ga. | 10.5 | 12.2 | 12.6 | 18.0 | 12.8 | 15.6 | 26.7 | 46.4 | +74 |
| Baltimore, Md. | 18.2 | 19.2 | 14.3 | 18.1 | 28.6 | 19.5 | 53.7 | 66.2 | +23 |
| Birmingham, Ala. | 4.0 | 4.0 | 2.7 | 4.8 | 6.5 | 5.9 | 10.1 | 17.2 | +70 |
| Boston, Mass. | 23.4 | 22.6 | 13.4 | 11.9 | 15.0 | 21.7 | 42.6 | 48.6 | +14 |
| Buffalo, N. Y. | 8.7 | 9.4 | 6.8 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 14.6 | 25.9 | 29.4 | +14 |
| Chicago, Ill. | 67.2 | 74.0 | 65.9 | 44.9 | 54.3 | 101.6 | 159.9 | 200.8 | +26 |
| Cleveland, Ohio | 20.9 | 22.0 | 20.6 | 16.2 | 17.0 | 33.2 | 45.0 | 66.4 | +48 |
| Columbus, Ohio | 9.2 | 8.4 | 10.0 | 6.2 | 9.4 | 10.7 | 19.4 | 26.4 | +36 |
| Denver, Colo. | 10.6 | 11.2 | 17.7 | 17.2 | 11.1 | 15.9 | 30.4 | 44.2 | +45 |
| Detroit, Mich. | 63.8 | 47.5 | 54.0 | 41.4 | 42.4 | 62.5 | 136.0 | 146.3 | + 8 |
| Indianapolis, Ind. | 7.8 | 10.6 | 7.6 | 6.5 | 4.7 | 9.3 | 17.3 | 20.4 | +18 |
| Los Angeles, Calif. | 108.2 | 122.9 | 120.6 | 112.5 | 103.4 | 157.6 | 278.3 | 373.4 | +34 |
| Memphis, Tenn. | 6.0 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 8.6 | 6.0 | 6.7 | 13.8 | 21.3 | +54 |
| Miami, Fla. | 17.8 | 21.0 | 19.9 | 20.2 | 25.5 | 28.3 | 49.7 | 73.9 | +49 |
| Milwaukee, Wis. | 18.8 | 13.7 | 13.2 | 5.2 | 21.6 | 14.4 | 33.5 | 41.1 | +23 |
| New York-Northeastern New Jersey | 134.2 | 101.9 | 116.8 | 107.3 | 88.8 | 144.8 | 345.3 | 341.1 | - 1 |
| Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va. | 7.1 | 5.6 | 3.8 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 6.8 | 15.4 | 15.7 | + 2 |
| Phoenix, Ariz. | 12.9 | 8.1 | 9.4 | 9.1 | 10.2 | 12.2 | 24.7 | 31.6 | +28 |
| Rochester, N. Y. | 5.2 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 7.7 | 5.4 | 5.9 | 12.6 | 18.9 | +50 |
| Salt Lake City, Utah | 4.5 | 4.5 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 7.7 | 8.8 | 12.3 | +40 |
| San Diego, Calif. | 11.2 | 11.0 | 11.5 | 13.7 | 13.7 | 12.7 | 35.1 | 40.1 | +14 |
| San Francisco-Oakland, Calif. | 34.5 | 31.5 | 30.3 | 28.8 | 30.2 | 53.0 | 84.0 | 112.0 | +33 |
| Seattle, Wash. | 13.9 | 20.8 | 16.1 | 16.8 | 12.8 | 17.9 | 30.5 | 47.5 | +56 |
| Washington, D. C. | 29.2 | 36.4 | 33.0 | 21.6 | 24.7 | 36.8 | 62.7 | 83.1 | +33 |

Source: Department of Labor.

**Table 18.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, in Selected Metropolitan Areas**

*(Housekeeping only)*

| Metropolitan area | 1954 | | | 1955 | | | First 3 months | | Percent change, 1st 3 mos. 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mar. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | 1954 | 1955 | |
| Atlanta, Ga. | 1,060 | 1,260 | 988 | 885 | 985 | 1,276 | 2,492 | 3,146 | +26 |
| Baltimore, Md. | 1,372 | 1,475 | 990 | 1,196 | 2,512 | 1,382 | 4,140 | 5,090 | +23 |
| Birmingham, Ala. | 427 | 392 | 284 | 313 | 474 | 509 | 1,018 | 1,296 | +27 |
| Boston, Mass. | 1,002 | 1,016 | 748 | 783 | 680 | 1,136 | 2,215 | 2,599 | +17 |
| Buffalo, N. Y. | 610 | 558 | 421 | 470 | 522 | 1,095 | 1,253 | 2,087 | +67 |
| Chicago, Ill. | 4,031 | 4,155 | 3,238 | 2,258 | 2,827 | 6,090 | 8,779 | 11,175 | +27 |
| Cleveland, Ohio | 909 | 911 | 1,130 | 745 | 876 | 1,365 | 2,021 | 2,986 | +48 |
| Columbus, Ohio | 452 | 594 | 457 | 418 | 606 | 433 | 1,005 | 1,457 | +45 |
| Denver, Colo. | 972 | 1,200 | 1,201 | 1,802 | 989 | 1,542 | 2,189 | 4,333 | +98 |
| Detroit, Mich. | 3,320 | 2,810 | 1,976 | 2,380 | 2,306 | 3,256 | 7,574 | 7,942 | + 5 |
| Indianapolis, Ind. | 451 | 774 | 272 | 272 | 305 | 576 | 905 | 1,153 | +27 |
| Los Angeles, Calif. | 8,906 | 9,393 | 9,772 | 9,042 | 7,455 | 11,618 | 22,962 | 28,115 | +22 |
| Memphis, Tenn. | 676 | 443 | 647 | 1,355 | 530 | 496 | 1,428 | 2,381 | +67 |
| Miami, Fla. | 1,561 | 1,725 | 1,029 | 1,627 | 1,428 | 1,817 | 3,465 | 4,872 | +41 |
| Milwaukee, Wis. | 734 | 834 | 651 | 365 | 536 | 812 | 1,475 | 1,713 | +16 |
| New York-Northeastern New Jersey | 9,160 | 5,801 | 6,906 | 6,832 | 4,778 | 9,561 | 23,781 | 21,200 | -11 |
| Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va. | 877 | 800 | 330 | 230 | 572 | 632 | 1,810 | 1,434 | -21 |
| Phoenix, Ariz. | 663 | 819 | 971 | 926 | 1,043 | 1,070 | 1,855 | 3,039 | +64 |
| Rochester, N. Y. | 337 | 416 | 394 | 272 | 145 | 482 | 666 | 899 | +35 |
| Salt Lake City, Utah | 408 | 306 | 127 | 161 | 124 | 555 | 718 | 840 | +17 |
| San Diego, Calif. | 905 | 1,048 | 858 | 962 | 1,055 | 951 | 2,849 | 2,968 | + 4 |
| San Francisco-Oakland, Calif. | 2,494 | 2,197 | 2,280 | 2,161 | 2,082 | 3,620 | 5,354 | 7,863 | +47 |
| Seattle, Wash. | 860 | 857 | 956 | 751 | 783 | 1,247 | 1,758 | 2,781 | +58 |
| Washington, D. C. | 1,833 | 1,482 | 2,263 | 1,378 | 1,733 | 2,807 | 5,276 | 5,918 | +12 |

Source: Department of Labor.

## Table 19.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation in Selected Metropolitan Areas by Class of Construction and Type of Building

March 1955 *(Thousands of dollars)*

| Class of construction and type of building | Atlanta, Ga. | Baltimore, Md. | Birmingham, Ala. | Boston, Mass. | Buffalo, N. Y. | Chicago, Ill. | Cleveland, Ohio | Columbus, Ohio |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All building construction** [1] | **15,580** | **19,498** | **5,889** | **21,717** | **14,637** | **101,602** | **33,239** | **10,724** |
| New dwelling units [2] | 11,026 | 13,522 | 3,746 | 11,330 | 10,181 | 75,044 | 20,327 | 5,496 |
| New nonresidential building | 3,459 | 4,733 | 1,387 | 7,525 | 3,511 | 19,500 | 11,030 | 4,286 |
| Commercial buildings | 2,430 | 1,931 | 578 | 1,672 | 797 | 6,563 | 1,790 | 2,323 |
| Amusement buildings | 919 | 71 | 20 | 248 | 0 | 423 | 0 | 0 |
| Commercial garages | 120 | 13 | 0 | 49 | 92 | 180 | 5 | 0 |
| Gasoline and service stations | 145 | 109 | 14 | 106 | 230 | 349 | 115 | 25 |
| Office buildings | 100 | 110 | 167 | 102 | 129 | 503 | 565 | 392 |
| Stores and other mercantile bldgs. | 1,146 | 1,628 | 376 | 1,168 | 346 | 5,110 | 1,106 | 1,906 |
| Community buildings | 868 | 2,011 | 695 | 4,620 | 1,651 | 8,249 | 1,341 | 423 |
| Educational buildings | 542 | 1,935 | 158 | 3,814 | 0 | 6,300 | 1,341 | 416 |
| Institutional buildings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 667 | 1,217 | 790 | 0 | 0 |
| Religious buildings | 326 | 77 | 537 | 139 | 434 | 1,160 | 0 | 7 |
| Garages, private residential | 25 | 92 | 22 | 94 | 124 | 1,171 | 298 | 180 |
| Industrial buildings | 85 | 277 | 85 | 1,122 | 562 | 1,807 | 5,823 | 97 |
| Public buildings | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 40 | 1,381 | 1,766 | 1,262 |
| Public utilities buildings | 9 | 311 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 51 | 0 | 0 |
| All other nonresidential buildings | 41 | 110 | 5 | 17 | 334 | 277 | 12 | 1 |
| Additions, alterations, and repairs | 1,095 | 1,238 | 752 | 2,747 | 589 | 6,483 | 1,790 | 927 |

| Class of construction and type of building | Denver, Colo. | Detroit, Mich. | Indianapolis, Ind. | Los Angeles, Calif. | Memphis, Tenn. | Miami, Fla. | Milwaukee, Wis. | New York-Northeastern New Jersey |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All building construction** [1] | **15,903** | **62,515** | **9,277** | **157,575** | **6,747** | **28,292** | **14,362** | **144,797** |
| New dwelling units [2] | 11,408 | 41,916 | 6,913 | 110,387 | 4,261 | 16,736 | 9,961 | 103,246 |
| New nonresidential building | 2,748 | 16,085 | 1,873 | 34,493 | 2,006 | 5,343 | 3,282 | 31,299 |
| Commercial buildings | 1,009 | 5,871 | 399 | 11,619 | 1,268 | 1,596 | 987 | 9,125 |
| Amusement buildings | 129 | 291 | 0 | 54 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 609 |
| Commercial garages | 5 | 48 | 0 | 148 | 0 | 31 | 13 | 180 |
| Gasoline and service stations | 107 | 504 | 62 | 370 | 30 | 121 | 116 | 687 |
| Office buildings | 124 | 1,234 | 60 | 4,283 | 0 | 200 | 151 | 2,530 |
| Stores and other mercantile bldgs. | 644 | 3,795 | 277 | 6,763 | 1,238 | 1,229 | 707 | 5,119 |
| Community buildings | 781 | 5,283 | 1,308 | 11,863 | 537 | 2,137 | 1,844 | 11,444 |
| Educational buildings | 670 | 3,898 | 998 | 10,451 | 419 | 521 | 0 | 7,700 |
| Institutional buildings | 0 | 476 | 0 | 215 | 0 | 1,418 | 680 | 2,496 |
| Religious buildings | 111 | 909 | 310 | 1,197 | 118 | 198 | 1,164 | 1,248 |
| Garages, private residential | 206 | 1,072 | 133 | 848 | 70 | 95 | 147 | 1,044 |
| Industrial buildings | 706 | 2,843 | 30 | 7,277 | 100 | 376 | 158 | 6,468 |
| Public buildings | 0 | 127 | 0 | 220 | 0 | 984 | 0 | 121 |
| Public utilities buildings | 0 | 240 | 0 | 54 | 0 | 19 | 0 | 1,677 |
| All other nonresidential buildings | 46 | 650 | 3 | 2,613 | 31 | 135 | 145 | 1,420 |
| Additions, alterations, and repairs | 1,710 | 4,425 | 491 | 12,540 | 479 | 1,997 | 1,119 | 9,837 |

| Class of construction and type of building | Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va. | Phoenix, Ariz. | Rochester, N. Y. | Salt Lake City, Utah | San Diego, Calif. | San Francisco-Oakland, Calif. | Seattle, Wash. | Washington, D. C. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **All building construction** [1] | **6,790** | **12,247** | **5,889** | **7,678** | **12,667** | **52,992** | **17,902** | **36,771** |
| New dwelling units [2] | 4,885 | 8,420 | 4,905 | 5,798 | 8,833 | 35,562 | 13,916 | 29,941 |
| New nonresidential building | 695 | 2,037 | 746 | 1,425 | 3,026 | 13,504 | 2,915 | 4,973 |
| Commercial buildings | 333 | 757 | 144 | 383 | 1,380 | 3,869 | 1,412 | 1,924 |
| Amusement buildings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 184 | 116 | 20 | 136 |
| Commercial garages | 14 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 66 |
| Gasoline and service stations | 36 | 117 | 36 | 69 | 18 | 390 | 85 | 166 |
| Office buildings | 171 | 141 | 48 | 223 | 139 | 2,135 | 531 | 160 |
| Stores and other mercantile bldgs. | 111 | 488 | 61 | 90 | 1,035 | 1,221 | 770 | 1,397 |
| Community buildings | 4 | 522 | 360 | 842 | 1,026 | 4,905 | 624 | 2,266 |
| Educational buildings | 0 | 438 | 360 | 842 | 938 | 2,681 | 395 | 1,599 |
| Institutional buildings | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,382 | 0 | 0 |
| Religious buildings | 4 | 84 | 0 | 0 | 88 | 843 | 230 | 667 |
| Garages, private residential | 53 | 11 | 64 | 53 | 185 | 164 | 58 | 83 |
| Industrial buildings | 58 | 436 | 137 | 0 | 317 | 3,451 | 609 | 15 |
| Public buildings | 144 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 | 563 | 0 | 319 |
| Public utilities buildings | 42 | 283 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 117 | 149 | 325 |
| All other nonresidential buildings | 61 | 28 | 9 | 146 | 51 | 435 | 63 | 40 |
| Additions, alterations, and repairs | 1,041 | 556 | 238 | 425 | 803 | 3,723 | 1,035 | 1,843 |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [2] Housekeeping only.

Table 20.--Contract Awards: Public Construction, by Ownership and Type of Construction [1]

| Ownership and type of construction[2] | Value (*in millions of dollars*) | | | | | | | | | Percent change, first 4 months 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | | | 1955 | | | | First 4 months | | |
| | Apr. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | 1954 | 1955 | |
| **ALL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION** | **836.2** | **566.1** | **728.4** | **521.5** | **506.4** | **775.8** | **770.1** | **2,443.2** | **2,573.8** | **+ 5** |
| **FEDERALLY OWNED** | **258.1** | **92.8** | **87.2** | **82.4** | **77.6** | **139.7** | **111.8** | **506.2** | **411.5** | **-19** |
| Residential building | 2.4 | (3) | 0 | 0 | 8.3 | 0 | .1 | 3.4 | 8.4 | +147 |
| Nonresidential building | 198.9 | 62.9 | 33.4 | 44.8 | 29.6 | 98.3 | 69.4 | 330.9 | 242.1 | -27 |
| Educational | .1 | (3) | .1 | (3) | (3) | (3) | 1.2 | 6.7 | 1.2 | -82 |
| Hospital and institutional | 1.4 | 16.5 | .4 | 6.8 | .4 | 5.8 | 6.7 | 12.5 | 19.7 | +58 |
| Administrative and general | 3.0 | 4.1 | 1.4 | 3.8 | 2.0 | 4.4 | 3.3 | 9.9 | 13.5 | +36 |
| Other nonresidential building | 194.4 | 42.3 | 31.5 | 34.2 | 27.2 | 88.1 | 58.2 | 301.8 | 207.7 | -31 |
| Airfield building | 17.2 | 7.7 | 9.5 | 14.8 | 4.9 | 17.5 | 10.4 | 41.3 | 47.6 | +15 |
| Industrial | 142.8 | 29.0 | 10.9 | 6.8 | 10.5 | 47.3 | 15.7 | 200.1 | 80.3 | -60 |
| Troop housing | 2.9 | .9 | 3.2 | 3.7 | .6 | 6.0 | 10.0 | 7.6 | 20.3 | +167 |
| Warehouses | 24.4 | .4 | 2.3 | 1.5 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 4.8 | 33.3 | 20.1 | -40 |
| All other | 7.1 | 4.3 | 5.6 | 7.4 | 4.9 | 9.8 | 17.3 | 19.5 | 39.4 | +102 |
| Airfields | 20.3 | 7.0 | 5.9 | 22.3 | 10.6 | 16.2 | 17.9 | 59.5 | 67.0 | +13 |
| Conservation and development | 23.3 | 16.0 | 19.2 | 6.0 | 20.8 | 11.9 | 12.4 | 47.7 | 51.1 | + 7 |
| Highway | 4.6 | 2.8 | 6.7 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 6.0 | 5.2 | 15.2 | 16.9 | +11 |
| Electric power utilities | 4.6 | 1.4 | 15.6 | 1.3 | 3.1 | 4.3 | 3.2 | 28.5 | 11.9 | -58 |
| All other federally owned | 4.0 | 2.7 | 6.4 | 5.2 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 3.6 | 21.0 | 14.1 | -33 |
| **STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED** | **578.1** | **473.3** | **641.2** | **439.1** | **428.8** | **636.1** | **658.3** | **1,937.0** | **2,162.3** | **+12** |
| Residential building | 14.5 | 12.1 | 9.8 | 7.9 | 16.6 | 16.5 | 14.5 | 73.2 | 55.5 | -24 |
| Nonresidential building | 227.1 | 203.6 | 246.7 | 224.3 | 183.9 | 260.7 | 246.6 | 853.9 | 915.5 | + 7 |
| Educational | 171.1 | 153.0 | 172.8 | 132.1 | 137.6 | 206.0 | 199.7 | 606.5 | 675.4 | +11 |
| Hospital and institutional | 19.4 | 16.1 | 21.8 | 20.3 | 12.2 | 10.6 | 15.7 | 75.2 | 58.8 | -22 |
| Administrative and general | 19.3 | 12.9 | 14.8 | 28.0 | 15.1 | 24.5 | 14.0 | 65.2 | 81.6 | +25 |
| Other nonresidential building | 17.3 | 21.6 | 37.3 | 43.9 | 19.0 | 19.6 | 17.2 | 107.0 | 99.7 | - 7 |
| Highway | 223.4 | 179.7 | 270.2 | 121.4 | 161.0 | 248.3 | 268.7 | 705.9 | 799.4 | +13 |
| Sewerage systems | 54.0 | 29.3 | 33.3 | 35.8 | 28.1 | 44.0 | 46.3 | 142.8 | 154.2 | + 8 |
| Water supply facilities | 27.6 | 23.7 | 28.9 | 27.6 | 24.0 | 28.2 | 26.8 | 80.0 | 106.6 | +33 |
| Utilities | 17.7 | 15.8 | 42.4 | 12.7 | 8.2 | 29.0 | 43.8 | 52.2 | 93.7 | +80 |
| Electric power | 15.3 | 11.6 | 27.4 | 4.3 | 3.9 | 2.0 | 34.2 | 30.0 | 44.4 | +48 |
| Other utilities | 2.4 | 4.2 | 15.0 | 8.4 | 4.3 | 27.0 | 9.6 | 22.2 | 49.3 | +122 |
| All other State and locally owned | 13.8 | 9.1 | 9.9 | 9.4 | 7.0 | 9.4 | 11.6 | 29.0 | 37.4 | +29 |

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Includes major force-account projects started principally by TVA and State highway departments. [2] Types not shown separately are included in the appropriate "other" category. [3] Less than $50,000.

Table 21.--Contract Awards: Highway Construction, by Ownership, Source of Funds, and Type of Facility [1]

| Ownership, source of funds, and type of facility | Value (*in millions of dollars*) | | | | | | | | | Percent change, first 4 months 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | | | 1955 | | | | First 4 months | | |
| | Apr. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | 1954 | 1955 | |
| **ALL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION** | **228.0** | **182.5** | **277.0** | **124.2** | **163.9** | **254.3** | **273.9** | **721.2** | **816.3** | **+13** |
| **FEDERALLY OWNED** | **4.6** | **2.8** | **6.7** | **2.8** | **2.9** | **6.0** | **5.2** | **15.2** | **16.9** | **+11** |
| **STATE OWNED** | **193.7** | **157.4** | **254.0** | **107.2** | **145.5** | **228.3** | **236.5** | **632.1** | **717.5** | **+14** |
| Federally aided projects: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total value | 125.1 | 79.7 | 141.7 | 50.5 | 79.3 | 83.5 | 112.1 | 303.6 | 325.4 | + 7 |
| Federal funds | 65.4 | 42.2 | 72.1 | 27.3 | 43.0 | 44.1 | 61.1 | 158.7 | 175.5 | +11 |
| Independent State projects: | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total value | 68.6 | 77.7 | 112.3 | 56.7 | 66.2 | 144.8 | 124.4 | 328.5 | 392.1 | +19 |
| Toll facilities | 3.9 | 31.3 | 63.1 | 32.9 | 30.3 | 102.2 | 69.8 | 144.1 | 235.2 | +63 |
| **LOCALLY OWNED**[2] | **29.7** | **22.3** | **16.3** | **14.2** | **15.5** | **20.0** | **32.2** | **73.9** | **81.9** | **+11** |

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Includes force-account work started on Federal and State Projects. [2] By municipalities and counties.

Chart 7

## Contracts Awarded on Public Construction

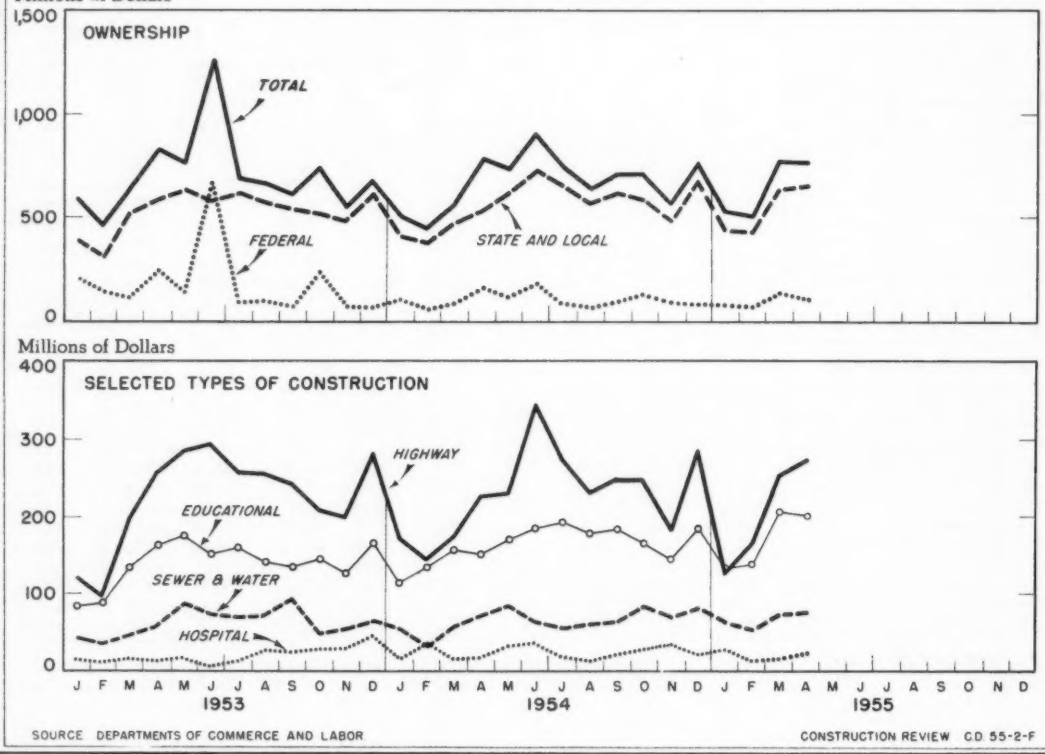


**Table 22.--Contracts Awarded in 37 Eastern States**

| Type of construction | Value *(in millions of dollars)* | | | Percent change | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | May 1955 from-- | | |
| | May 1955 | April 1955 | First 5 months, 1955 | April 1955 | May 1954 | First 5 months, 1954-55 |
| **TOTAL** | 2,185 | 2,322 | 9,728 | - 6 | +13 | +29 |
| Building construction | 1,737 | 1,776 | 7,796 | - 2 | +16 | +30 |
| Residential | 1,011 | 1,070 | 4,506 | - 5 | +23 | +38 |
| Nonresidential | 726 | 706 | 3,290 | + 3 | + 8 | +20 |
| Engineering | 448 | 546 | 1,932 | -18 | + 5 | +28 |
| Public works | 290 | 342 | 1,327 | -15 | -11 | +23 |
| Utilities | 158 | 204 | 605 | -22 | +53 | +42 |

Source: Compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by F. W. Dodge Corporation.

### Table 23.--Construction Cost Indexes

| Compiler and coverage | Indexes (1947-49 = 100) | | | | | | | | | Percent change, May 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | 1955 | | | | | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | |
| | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | May | May | May | |
| American Appraisal Company | 127.2 | 127.2 | 127.4 | 127.7 | 127.9 | 128.1 | 116.6 | 121.7 | 124.7 | +3 |
| Associated General Contractors | 133.6 | 133.6 | 133.6 | 133.6 | 134.2 | 134.5 | 117.8 | 124.3 | 130.5 | +3 |
| E. H. Boeckh and Associates (20 city average): | | | | | | | | | | |
| Residences | 121.1 | 121.5 | 121.5 | 121.9 | 122.6 | 123.3 | 118.3 | 120.8 | 119.5 | +3 |
| Apartments, hotels, and office buildings | 127.7 | 127.9 | 128.0 | 128.2 | 128.9 | 129.5 | 120.8 | 124.8 | 126.3 | +3 |
| Commercial and factory buildings | 128.7 | 128.9 | 129.0 | 129.2 | 130.0 | 130.6 | 120.8 | 125.1 | 127.0 | +3 |
| Engineering News-Record (as of June 1): | | | | | | | | | | |
| Building | 135.4 | 135.9 | 135.9 | 136.2 | 136.8 | 137.5 | 122.0 | 126.0 | 130.0 | +6 |
| Construction | 142.1 | 142.4 | 142.5 | 142.9 | 144.2 | 144.8 | 124.0 | 131.1 | 137.3 | +5 |
| Department of Commerce composite [1] | 122.5 | 122.6 | 122.7 | 123.2 | 123.9 | 124.3 | 118.2 | 121.3 | 120.8 | +3 |

Source: Department of Commerce. [1] A composite of cost indexes representative of the major types of construction, weighted by the current relative importance of each type.

### Table 24.--Indexes of Wholesale Prices of Building Materials, by Selected Classes

| Commodity | Indexes (1947-49 = 100) | | | | | | | | | Percent change, May 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | 1955 | | | | | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | |
| | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | May | May | May | |
| **ALL BUILDING MATERIALS** [1] | **122.0** | **122.1** | **122.5** | **122.8** | **123.4** | **124.0** | **118.1** | **120.2** | **118.6** | **+5** |
| **LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS:** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lumber | 119.8 | 120.0 | 121.4 | 121.6 | 122.9 | 123.9 | 121.1 | 121.0 | 115.0 | +8 |
| Douglas fir | 125.5 | 126.5 | 127.2 | 127.0 | 128.5 | 130.2 | 130.3 | 119.9 | 114.4 | +14 |
| Southern pine | 114.3 | 114.7 | 114.9 | 114.4 | 113.9 | 114.0 | 116.0 | 116.5 | 107.5 | +6 |
| Other softwoods | 131.6 | 131.2 | 133.8 | 134.4 | 136.8 | 137.3 | 127.1 | 135.0 | 129.7 | +6 |
| Hardwoods | 111.5 | 111.5 | 113.3 | 114.3 | 115.7 | 116.9 | 113.8 | 115.9 | 112.0 | +4 |
| Millwork | 130.3 | 130.4 | 129.0 | 128.7 | 129.3 | 129.3 | 126.4 | 132.0 | 130.8 | -1 |
| Plywood | 104.3 | 104.7 | 104.8 | 104.8 | 104.8 | 105.6 | 105.6 | 112.4 | 101.4 | +4 |
| Softwood | 110.4 | 110.4 | 110.5 | 110.5 | 110.5 | 110.5 | 111.9 | 115.4 | 102.5 | +8 |
| Hardwood | 100.1 | 100.9 | 100.9 | 100.9 | 100.9 | 102.6 | 101.1 | 110.3 | 100.7 | +2 |
| **PAINT AND PAINT MATERIALS:** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prepared paint | 112.8 | 112.8 | 113.1 | 114.0 | 114.8 | 114.8 | 110.6 | 110.8 | 112.8 | +2 |
| Paint materials | 96.2 | 95.8 | 96.1 | 95.9 | 96.2 | 97.0 | 99.7 | 95.1 | 95.3 | +2 |
| **METAL PRODUCTS:** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Structural shapes | 146.2 | 146.2 | 146.2 | 146.2 | 146.2 | 146.2 | 128.4 | 133.8 | 141.3 | +4 |
| Hardware, finish | 138.0 | 138.0 | 139.0 | 139.9 | 139.9 | 139.9 | 131.3 | 133.6 | 135.8 | +3 |
| Plumbing equipment | 118.7 | 118.7 | 118.7 | 123.0 | 123.3 | 123.3 | 116.0 | 113.8 | 118.2 | +4 |
| Enameled iron fixtures | 129.2 | 129.3 | 129.3 | 129.3 | 129.3 | 129.3 | 121.9 | 123.0 | 129.2 | (2) |
| Vitreous china fixtures | 111.7 | 111.7 | 111.7 | 117.1 | 117.3 | 117.3 | 120.5 | 103.2 | 111.7 | +5 |
| Brass fittings | 117.1 | 117.1 | 117.1 | 123.4 | 123.4 | 123.4 | 109.9 | 113.3 | 115.9 | +7 |
| Heating equipment | 114.3 | 113.9 | 113.7 | 113.6 | 113.6 | 113.5 | 113.7 | 114.4 | 113.9 | (2) |
| Furnaces | 121.1 | 120.6 | 120.2 | 119.8 | 119.8 | 119.8 | 116.7 | 117.4 | 120.6 | -1 |
| Water heaters | 108.2 | 107.7 | 107.7 | 107.7 | 107.4 | 107.4 | 113.4 | 111.7 | 107.9 | -1 |
| Metal sash | 132.5 | 132.5 | 132.5 | 132.5 | 133.2 | 133.2 | 117.7 | 117.7 | 127.3 | +5 |
| **NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS:** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Glass, plate | 132.0 | 132.0 | 132.0 | 132.0 | 132.0 | 132.0 | 120.9 | 120.9 | 132.0 | 0 |
| Glass, window | 131.3 | 131.3 | 131.3 | 131.3 | 135.1 | 135.1 | 118.0 | 118.0 | 131.3 | +3 |
| Concrete ingredients | 122.3 | 123.1 | 123.9 | 124.1 | 124.8 | 124.7 | 112.9 | 117.9 | 120.0 | +4 |
| Portland cement | 128.3 | 129.9 | 129.9 | 130.1 | 131.5 | 131.5 | 116.4 | 123.8 | 124.9 | +5 |
| Concrete products | 117.4 | 116.7 | 117.0 | 118.2 | 118.2 | 118.2 | 112.4 | 115.5 | 117.3 | +1 |
| Structural clay products | 135.4 | 135.8 | 136.1 | 136.3 | 136.8 | 137.0 | 121.4 | 124.7 | 132.0 | +4 |
| Gypsum products | 122.1 | 122.1 | 122.1 | 122.1 | 122.1 | 122.1 | 117.7 | 122.1 | 122.1 | 0 |
| Asphalt roofing | 106.1 | 106.1 | 100.4 | 98.8 | 98.5 | 105.8 | 98.6 | 106.0 | 96.3 | +10 |
| Insulation materials | 107.3 | 106.7 | 106.7 | 106.7 | 106.7 | 106.7 | 105.1 | 107.3 | 110.1 | -3 |
| **MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS:** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Building board | 127.6 | 127.6 | 129.4 | 129.7 | 129.7 | 129.7 | 115.8 | 123.0 | 127.9 | +1 |
| Kitchen cabinets, metal | 128.2 | 128.2 | 128.2 | 128.2 | 128.2 | 128.2 | 125.2 | 127.2 | 127.6 | +1 |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes items not shown separately. [2] Change of less than 0.5 percent.

## Table 25.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials

| Commodity | Unit | 1955 | | 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | April | March | April |
| **LUMBER** | | | | |
| Douglas fir: | | | | |
| Dimension, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, 2"x4", R.L., mixed c/l, f.o.b. mill | M bd. ft. | $72.324 | $70.287 | $62.417 |
| Boards, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, R.L., 1"x8", loose, mixed c/l of boards and dimension, f.o.b. mill | M bd. ft. | 65.423 | 64.380 | 57.400 |
| Timbers, No. 1, 8"x8" to 12"x12", R.L., green, f.o.b. mill | M bd. ft. | 73.288 | 72.969 | 63.194 |
| Southern pine: | | | | |
| Dimension, No. 2 and better, 2"x4"x16', dry, S.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill | M bd. ft. | 81.313 | 81.864 | 74.828 |
| Boards, No. 2 and better, 1"x6", dry, R.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill | M bd. ft. | 77.256 | 77.527 | 71.030 |
| Ponderosa pine boards, No. 3 common, 1"x8", R.L., S2 or 4S, c/l or mixed cars, f.o.b. mill | M bd. ft. | 77.200 | 75.170 | 70.640 |
| Oak, red, flooring, plain, 25/32" thick, 2-1/4" face, select, f.o.b. mill | M bd. ft. | 180.893 | 178.054 | 166.215 |
| Maple flooring, 2d grade, 25/32"x2-1/4" face, f.o.b. mill | M bd. ft. | 173.134 | 175.538 | 169.146 |
| Poplar, plain, No. 2B common, 4/4", R.W., f.o.b. mill | M bd. ft. | 55.000 | 55.000 | 59.000 |
| Beech, No. 2 common, 4/4", R.W. & L., f.o.b. mill | M bd. ft. | 47.000 | 47.000 | 55.000 |
| **MILLWORK** | | | | |
| Door, Douglas fir, interior, 2 plywood panels, 2'6"x6'8"x1-3/8", f.o.b. factory | Each | 4.829 | 4.829 | 4.377 |
| Frame, door, ponderosa pine, exterior, 1-5/16"x2" casing, with sill, f.o.b. factory | Each | 9.326 | 9.229 | 9.321 |
| Window, ponderosa pine, 2-light, check rail, open, f.o.b. factory | Each | 1.656 | 1.648 | 1.653 |
| **PLYWOOD** | | | | |
| Douglas fir, interior, grade A-D, 1/4"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill | M sq. ft. | 80.807 | 80.807 | 72.251 |
| Douglas fir, interior, grade C-D, 5/16"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill | M sq. ft. | 70.660 | 70.660 | 60.626 |
| **BOARD** | | | | |
| Insulation, fiber, 1/2"x48"x96", interior, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized | M sq. ft. | 54.000 | 54.000 | 53.000 |
| **PREPARED PAINT** | | | | |
| Emulsion, water-thinned, inside, delivered | Gallon | 2.399 | 2.375 | 2.372 |
| Varnish, floor, first grade, delivered | Gallon | 3.706 | 3.689 | 3.682 |
| Enamel, white, gloss, first grade, delivered | Gallon | 4.628 | 4.584 | 4.497 |
| Inside, flat, white, first grade, delivered | Gallon | 2.945 | 2.901 | 2.868 |
| Outside, white, first grade, delivered | Gallon | 4.348 | 4.348 | 4.342 |
| **METAL PRODUCTS** | | | | |
| Structural shapes, carbon steel, 6"x4"x1/2" angles, 30' long, ASTM spec. A-7, base quantity, f.o.b. mill | 100 lb. | 4.517 | 4.517 | 4.367 |
| Bars, reinforcing, carbon steel, 3/4" rounds x 30' long with 10% shorts, spec. ASTM A-15. 50T, base quantity, f.o.b. mill | 100 lb. | 4.963 | 4.963 | 4.900 |
| Sheets, galvanized, carbon steel, 24 gage x 30" wide x 96" long, commercial coating, base chemistry, base packaging, base quantity, f.o.b. mill | 100 lb. | 7.220 | 7.220 | 6.895 |
| Pipe, standard, black, carbon steel, buttweld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill | 100 ft. | 15.000 | 15.000 | 14.454 |
| Pipe, standard, galvanized, carbon steel, buttweld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill | 100 ft. | 18.605 | 18.605 | 17.731 |
| Nails, wire, carbon steel, 8-penny, common, c/l, f.o.b. mill | 100 lb. keg | 7.815 | 7.815 | 7.488 |
| Soil pipe, cast iron, 2" to 6", single and double hub, service pipe, extra heavy, f.o.b. foundry, index number (1947-49=100) | Ton | (111.3) | (108.4) | (105.5) |
| Aluminum sheets, 3003-H14, hard alloy, mill finish, 0.64"x48"x144", 30,000 lbs. or over, f.o.b. shipping points, freight allowed | Pound | $ 0.377 | $ 0.377 | (1) |
| Copper water tubing, type L, 3/4" size, 0.045" thick, 2,000 ft. or more in 60' coils (0.455 lbs. per linear ft.), f.o.b. mill, freight allowed | Foot | .281 | .267 | (1) |
| Wire, building, type R, size 12, single braid, f.o.b. destination, or freight prepaid on specified amounts | M ft. | 13.770 | 13.281 | $10.965 |
| Screening, insect, bronze wire, 18x14 mesh, 30" wide, c/l, f.o.b. factory | Linear ft. roll | 24.380 | 24.220 | 24.220 |
| **PLUMBING EQUIPMENT** | | | | |
| Bath tub, enameled iron, 5', recessed, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed | Each | 53.841 | 53.841 | 53.841 |
| Lavatory, enameled iron, 20"x18", f.o.b. plant, freight allowed | Each | 12.858 | 12.858 | 12.858 |
| Water closet, vitreous china, close coupled, reverse trap, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed | Each | 23.242 | 23.179 | 21.778 |
| Sink, enameled steel, 32"x21", flat rim, 2-compartment, acid resisting, without drainboard, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed | Each | 16.634 | 16.058 | 16.057 |

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 25.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials--Continued**

| Commodity | Unit | 1955 | | 1954 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | April | March | April |
| **HEATING EQUIPMENT** | | | | |
| Boiler, heating, steel, oil fired, steam rating 400 sq. ft., less burner, with jacket and standard trim, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed | *Each* | $186.618 | $186.618 | $184.880 |
| Convector, nonferrous, free standing, average steam rating 43 sq. ft., E.D.R., f.o.b. factory, freight allowed | *Sq. ft., incl. enclosure* | .433 | .433 | .451 |
| Furnace, warm air: | | | | |
| Steel, oil fired, forced air, gun-type burner, average bonnet output 90,000-115,000 BTU per hr., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance | *Each* | 247.732 | 247.732 | 256.572 |
| Steel, gas fired, standard automatic controls, average input rating 85,000-110,000 BTU per hr., enclosing jacket, f.o.b. factory, freight allowance | *Each* | 157.008 | 157.008 | 170.591 |
| Furnace, floor, gas fired, floor grill, average input rating 40,000-60,000 BTU per hr., manual controls, f.o.b. factory. | *Each* | 62.070 | 59.212 | 56.967 |
| Oil burner, mechanical forced draft (gun-type), 2-1/2 gal. per hr., thermostat, limit and stack controls, f.o.b. factory | *Each* | 101.958 | 101.958 | 112.495 |
| Water heater, gas, automatic, 30-gal. storage tank, galvanized steel, 1-year guarantee, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed | *Each* | 38.350 | 38.350 | (1) |
| **NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS** | | | | |
| Sand, construction, f.o.b. plant | *Ton* | 1.156 | 1.167 | 1.126 |
| Gravel, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant | *Ton* | 1.396 | 1.403 | 1.371 |
| Crushed stone, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant | *Ton* | 1.585 | 1.567 | 1.544 |
| Block, concrete, lightweight aggregate, 8"x8"x16", f.o.b. plant | *Each* | .174 | .174 | .181 |
| Pipe, concrete, culvert, reinforced, 24" diameter, ASTM spec. C76-41 table 1, 3" wall thickness, 4' lengths, delivered | *Foot* | 3.938 | 3.836 | 3.685 |
| Brick, building, f.o.b. plant | *Thousand* | 28.654 | 28.559 | 28.151 |
| Brick, face, red, first quality, textured, f.o.b. plant | *Thousand* | 37.717 | 37.383 | 36.807 |
| Tile, clay, partition, scored, 4"x12"x12", 3-cell, 16 lbs., f.o.b. plant | *Thousand* | 126.727 | 126.727 | 122.219 |
| Sewer pipe, vitrified clay, 8" diameter, 3' lengths, standard strength, f.o.b. plant | *Foot* | .483 | .475 | .450 |
| Lath, gypsum, 3/8"x16"x48", f.o.b. plant, freight equalized | *M sq. ft.* | 24.010 | 24.010 | 24.010 |
| Wallboard, gypsum, 3/8"x48", varying lengths, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized | *M sq. ft.* | 31.850 | 31.850 | 31.850 |
| Plaster, gypsum, base coat, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized | *Ton* | 14.948 | 14.948 | 14.948 |
| Shingles, asphalt, strip, 210 lbs., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance | *Square* | 4.927 | 4.927 | 5.596 |
| Lime, hydrated, building, finishing, f.o.b. plant | *Ton* | 19.444 | 18.057 | 18.083 |
| Siding shingles, asbestos cement, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized | *Square* | 9.697 | 9.697 | 9.580 |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Not available.

## FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF FORMER APPRENTICES

The publication Follow-Up Study of Former Apprentices presents information on why some apprentices quit before completing training programs under way during 1951-52 and their employment status 2 years later--the kinds of jobs they held and the extent to which their previous training helps them on these jobs.

Based on a sample survey, the report shows, for example, that about one-half of all former apprentices (including those in the building trades) were currently employed at the same trade in which they had been apprenticed or in closely related work. Among those who shifted to jobs unrelated to their training, the proportion was somewhat larger for building trades apprentices than for those in all trades taken together.

The results of this survey will help those operating training programs to evaluate the effectiveness of current programs in holding apprentices to the end of their training. Inadequacies in present training systems and some means of remedying them are also suggested.

Copies of the booklet Follow-Up Study of Former Apprentices may be obtained free, while the supply lasts, from the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship, Publications Branch, Washington 25, D. C.

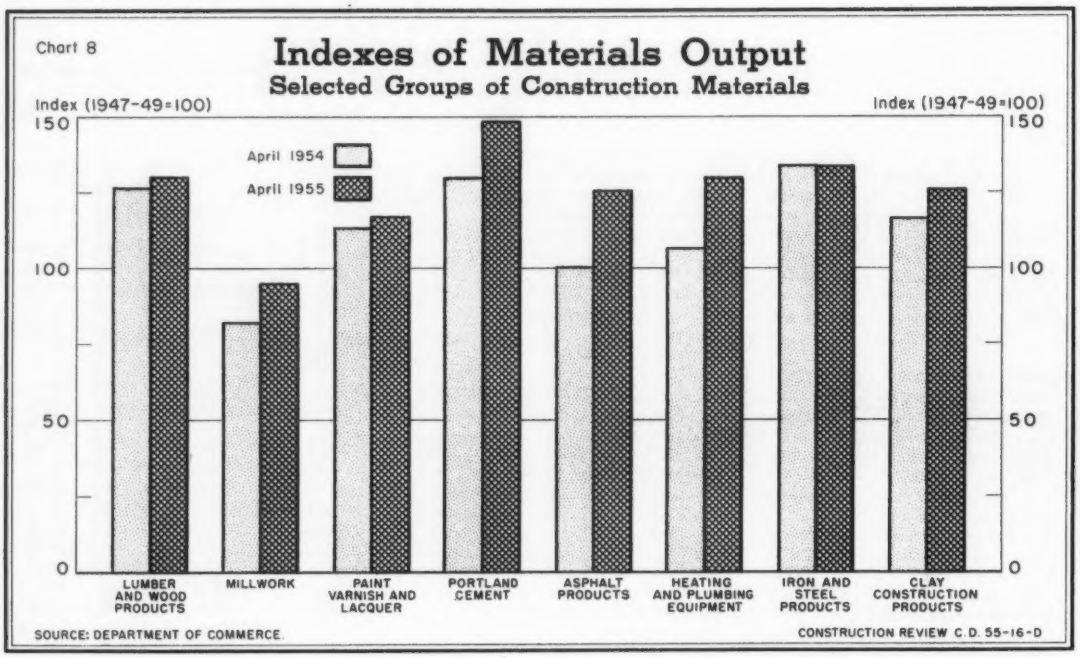


**Table 26--Construction Materials: Indexes of Output**

*(Monthly average 1947-49 = 100)*

| Materials group | Monthly Indexes | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | | | | | | | | | 1955 | | | |
| | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. |
| Lumber and wood products | 126.3 | 124.5 | 117.9 | 93.9 | 107.6 | 126.6 | 133.5 | 127.5 | 124.9 | 117.7 | 116.7 | 136.4 | 129.9 |
| Millwork | 91.9 | 91.5 | 98.5 | 70.6 | 92.9 | 120.2 | 121.6 | 108.8 | 114.4 | [1]110.0 | [1]109.1 | [1]125.9 | [1]109.2 |
| Paint, varnish, and lacquer | 113.4 | 113.3 | 123.6 | 111.9 | 111.5 | 104.9 | 93.4 | 86.9 | 75.6 | 94.3 | 86.6 | 114.1 | 117.2 |
| Portland cement | 130.0 | 139.3 | 136.4 | 152.4 | 153.7 | 152.7 | 154.9 | 142.5 | 133.3 | 121.0 | 105.4 | 134.0 | 148.6 |
| Asphalt products | 100.2 | 112.6 | 133.8 | 109.3 | 123.2 | 143.5 | 122.0 | 104.6 | 68.0 | 71.6 | 79.8 | 125.3 | 125.1 |
| Heating and plumbing equipment | 106.5 | 108.0 | 122.6 | 111.0 | 145.3 | 155.8 | 158.8 | 127.6 | 112.5 | 115.9 | 114.9 | 141.2 | [1]129.9 |
| Iron and steel products | 134.0 | 124.5 | 138.1 | 121.4 | 126.9 | 124.3 | 121.3 | 105.6 | 97.6 | 104.5 | 104.5 | 130.1 | [1]133.8 |
| Clay construction products | 116.5 | 113.8 | 122.4 | 117.6 | 125.1 | 126.6 | 123.3 | 123.7 | 120.6 | 112.8 | 108.1 | 132.2 | 126.0 |

| | Quarterly Indexes | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1953 | 1954 | | | | 1955 |
| | Fourth quarter | First quarter | Second quarter | Third quarter | Fourth quarter | First quarter |
| Gypsum products | 140.7 | 132.8 | 152.3 | 158.9 | 162.2 | 168.9 |
| Plumbing fixtures | 99.3 | 102.7 | 100.9 | 101.4 | 123.1 | 132.9 |

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce from data reported by various Government agencies and by private firms shown in notes to the tables following. [1] Partly estimated.

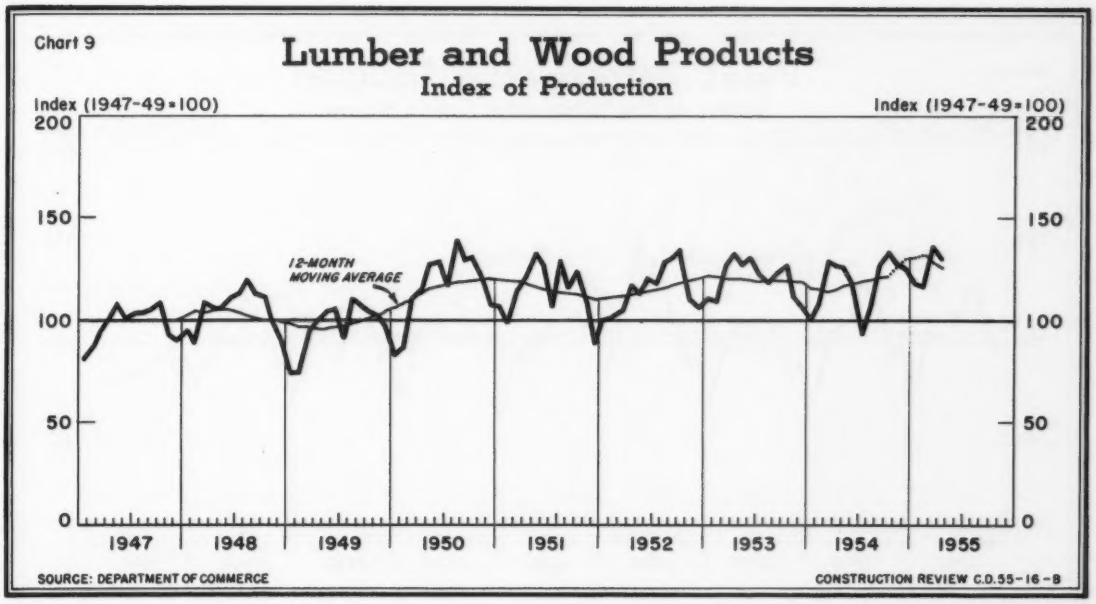


**Table 27.--Lumber and Wood Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks**

| Period | Softwood lumber (*Million board feet*) | | | Hardwood flooring (*Thousand board feet*) | | | Douglas fir plywood (*Million square feet*) | Insulating boards (*Tons*) | Hardboard (*Tons*) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Production | Shipments | Stocks | Production | Shipments | Stocks | Production | | |
| 1947-49 average | 28,048 | 27,440 | 4,448 | 812,365 | 789,437 | 44,455 | 1,802 | 766,269 | 294,214 |
| Year: 1952 | 30,477 | 30,578 | 4,980 | 1,004,117 | 1,001,672 | 86,938 | 3,051 | 879,655 | 396,219 |
| 1953 | 31,072 | 30,318 | 5,756 | 1,004,558 | 1,010,972 | 73,449 | 3,704 | 952,562 | 423,428 |
| 1954 | 29,296 | 29,798 | 5,275 | 1,145,118 | 1,139,091 | 68,425 | 3,825 | 1,013,740 | 493,258 |
| 12 months ending: | | | | | | | | | |
| January 1955 | 29,552 | 30,100 | -- | 1,161,362 | 1,161,075 | -- | 3,915 | 1,022,365 | 504,799 |
| February 1955 | 29,699 | 30,258 | -- | 1,175,869 | 1,176,634 | -- | 3,985 | 1,040,732 | 507,101 |
| March 1955 | 29,816 | 30,399 | -- | 1,191,903 | 1,193,971 | -- | 4,052 | 1,055,841 | 509,870 |
| April 1955 | 29,850 | 30,443 | -- | 1,202,184 | 1,207,255 | -- | 4,110 | 1,062,467 | 510,133 |
| 1954: April | 2,595 | 2,710 | 5,683 | 94,012 | 94,876 | 73,145 | 355 | 81,224 | 44,581 |
| May | 2,640 | 2,599 | 5,724 | 90,449 | 90,438 | 71,440 | 329 | 87,988 | 42,042 |
| June | 2,459 | 2,699 | 5,484 | 96,554 | 100,063 | 66,986 | 280 | 89,877 | 42,879 |
| July | 2,025 | 2,256 | 5,253 | 94,037 | 98,340 | 62,583 | 142 | 85,910 | 40,890 |
| August | 2,317 | 2,411 | 5,161 | 101,799 | 104,247 | 59,768 | 207 | 89,862 | 41,791 |
| September | 2,650 | 2,656 | 5,153 | 104,340 | 104,572 | 56,859 | 332 | 88,860 | 42,409 |
| October | 2,715 | 2,693 | 5,175 | 104,788 | 105,116 | 56,456 | 393 | 96,961 | 43,268 |
| November | 2,553 | 2,473 | 5,254 | 102,146 | 98,488 | 59,874 | 395 | 89,164 | 43,744 |
| December | 2,499 | 2,479 | 5,275 | 102,284 | 92,910 | 68,425 | 393 | 84,239 | 38,535 |
| 1955: January | 2,309 | 2,311 | 5,238 | 97,476 | 98,885 | 64,016 | 393 | 94,753 | 43,641 |
| February | 2,320 | 2,293 | 5,284 | 93,925 | 94,946 | 62,945 | 389 | 86,784 | 39,722 |
| March | 2,734 | 2,819 | 5,205 | 110,093 | 111,090 | 61,076 | 444 | 97,328 | 46,368 |
| April | 2,629 | 2,754 | 5,121 | 104,293 | 108,160 | 55,183 | 413 | 87,850 | 44,844 |
| | Percent change | | | | | | | | |
| April, 1954-55 | +1 | +2 | -10 | +11 | +14 | -25 | +16 | + 8 | + 1 |
| First 4 mos., 1954-55 | +6 | +7 | -- | +16 | +20 | -- | +21 | +22 | +11 |

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, the Douglas Fir Plywood Association, and the Bureau of the Census.

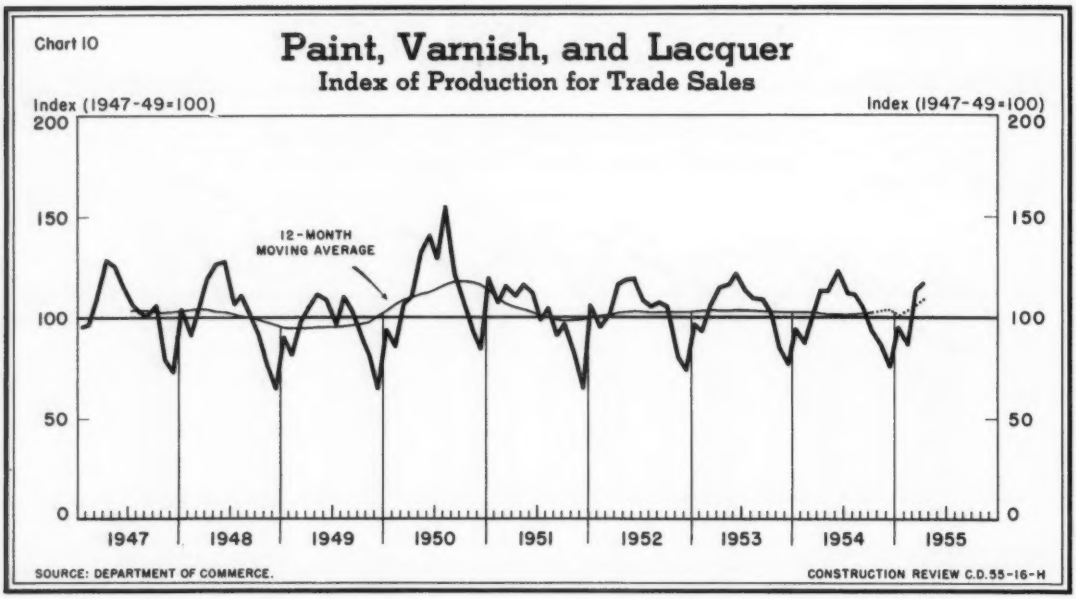


**Table 28.--Millwork Products, and Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer: Production**

| Period | Production (*Thousands of units*) | | | | Production for trade sales (*Thousands of gallons*) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Douglas fir doors (panel type) | Ponderosa pine doors | Sash | Exterior frames | Paint, varnish, & lacquer |
| 1947-49 average | 5,658 | 3,780 | 11,246 | 4,152 | 266,701 |
| Year: 1952 | 5,288 | 2,417 | 10,514 | 4,543 | 274,992 |
| 1953 | 4,070 | 2,487 | 11,419 | 5,072 | 276,326 |
| 1954 | 3,522 | 2,285 | 11,054 | 5,791 | 271,235 |
| 12 months ending: | | | | | |
| January 1955 | 3,590 | 2,325 | 11,437 | 5,963 | 271,243 |
| February 1955 | 3,612 | 2,336 | 11,809 | 6,102 | 271,043 |
| March 1955 | 3,642 | 2,370 | 12,212 | 6,329 | 273,425 |
| April 1955 | 3,599 | 2,376 | 12,415 | 6,497 | 274,263 |
| 1954: April | 344 | 181 | 784 | 423 | 25,200 |
| May | 297 | 162 | 841 | 448 | 25,183 |
| June | 265 | 199 | 967 | 541 | 27,642 |
| July | 85 | 127 | 716 | 399 | 24,874 |
| August | 71 | 220 | 919 | 498 | 24,777 |
| September | 342 | 235 | 1,247 | 634 | 23,309 |
| October | 346 | 229 | 1,227 | 629 | 20,752 |
| November | 377 | 191 | 1,128 | 518 | 19,320 |
| December | 383 | 209 | 1,124 | 537 | 16,775 |
| 1955: January | 362 | 196 | 1,017 | 527 | 20,969 |
| February | 355 | 184 | 1,061 | 522 | 19,254 |
| March | 415 | 236 | 1,181 | 653 | 25,370 |
| April | 301 | 187 | 987 | 591 | 26,038 |
| | Percent change | | | | |
| April, 1954-55 | -13 | + 3 | +26 | +40 | +3 |
| First 4 mos., 1954-55 | + 6 | +13 | +47 | +44 | +3 |

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Fir Door Institute, the National Wood Work Manufacturers Association (whose data on ponderosa pine, sash, and exterior frames are only from member firms, and are not adjusted to represent full coverage), and the Bureau of the Census.

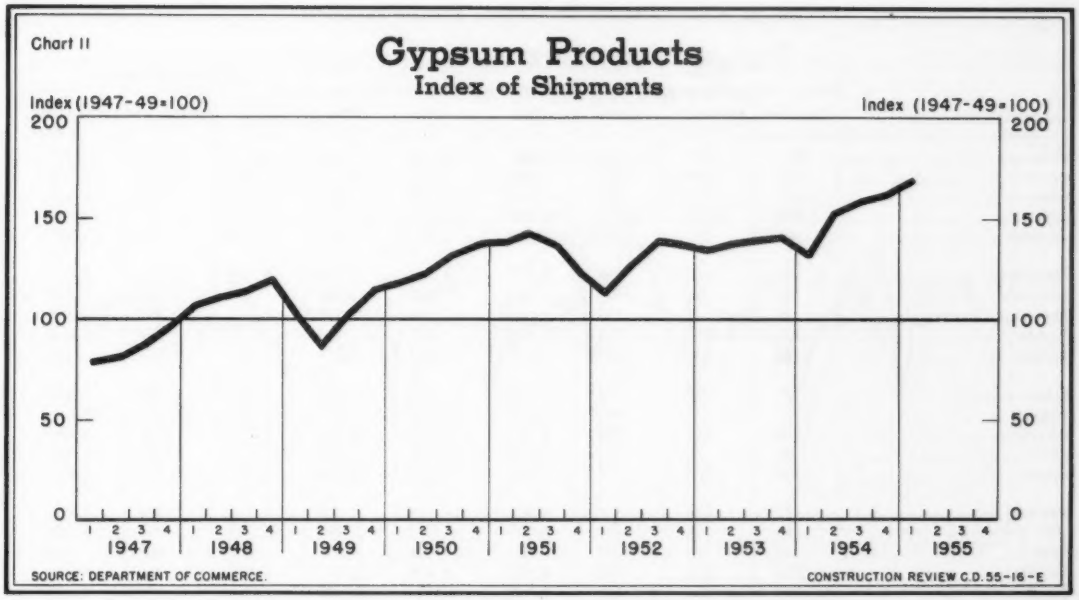


**Table 29.--Portland Cement, and Asphalt and Gypsum Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks**

| Period | Portland cement (Thousands of barrels) | | | Shipments (Thousands of squares) | | | | Shipments (Million square feet) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Production | Shipments | Stocks | Asphalt prepared roofing | Asphalt siding | Asphalt insulated brick siding | Asphalt and tar saturated felts | Gypsum board [1] | Gypsum lath [1] |
| 1947-49 average | 200,607 | 199,306 | 11,922 | 61,252 | 3,365 | 2,811 | 17,087 | 2,478 | 2,075 |
| Year: 1952 | 249,091 | 251,137 | 15,964 | 57,938 | 1,858 | 2,718 | 23,577 | 3,457 | 2,315 |
| 1953 | 264,022 | 260,889 | 19,231 | 56,703 | 1,557 | 2,794 | 25,778 | 3,757 | 2,435 |
| 1954 | 271,277 | 274,096 | 16,722 | 58,648 | 1,447 | 2,297 | 28,531 | 4,217 | 2,484 |
| 12 months ending: | | | | | | | | | |
| January 1955 | 273,739 | 276,473 | -- | 59,273 | 1,443 | 2,291 | 29,022 | -- | -- |
| February 1955 | 274,456 | 275,302 | -- | 59,691 | 1,428 | 2,272 | 28,619 | -- | -- |
| March 1955 | 276,768 | 279,492 | -- | 61,400 | 1,437 | 2,255 | 30,518 | 4,456 | 2,649 |
| April 1955 | 279,885 | 281,198 | -- | 62,576 | 1,422 | 2,210 | 31,533 | -- | -- |
| 1954: April | 21,730 | 23,589 | 27,045 | 4,923 | 113 | 217 | 1,962 | 1,052 | 635 |
| May | 23,279 | 24,911 | 25,412 | 5,374 | 114 | 219 | 2,537 | | |
| June | 22,802 | 28,632 | 19,674 | 6,484 | 151 | 231 | 2,985 | | |
| July | 25,482 | 27,702 | 17,524 | 5,251 | 115 | 233 | 2,330 | 1,079 | 689 |
| August | 25,698 | 28,887 | 14,408 | 6,029 | 147 | 260 | 2,460 | | |
| September | 25,522 | 29,032 | 10,907 | 7,062 | 153 | 256 | 3,036 | | |
| October | 25,887 | 27,134 | 9,667 | 6,088 | 144 | 221 | 2,436 | 1,144 | 642 |
| November | 23,826 | 22,766 | 10,732 | 5,108 | 125 | 159 | 2,360 | | |
| December | 22,290 | 16,347 | 16,722 | 3,094 | 86 | 97 | 1,852 | | |
| 1955: January | 20,231 | 13,520 | 23,434 | 3,190 | 85 | 93 | 2,091 | 1,181 | 683 |
| February | 17,612 | 14,031 | 27,018 | 3,264 | 79 | 108 | 2,711 | | |
| March | 22,409 | 22,941 | 26,486 | 5,533 | 125 | 161 | 3,758 | | |
| April | 24,847 | 25,295 | 26,039 | 6,099 | 98 | 172 | 2,977 | | |
| | Percent change | | | | | | | | |
| April, 1954-55 | +14 | + 7 | - 4 | +24 | -13 | -21 | +52 | -- | -- |
| First 4 mos., 1954-55 | +11 | +10 | -- | +28 | - 6 | -14 | +35 | -- | -- |

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines), and the Bureau of the Census. [1] Data reported on quarterly basis.

**Table 30.--Portland Cement: Destination of Shipments, by State**

*(Thousands of barrels)*

| State | 1955 | | | Calendar year | | | 12 months ending-- | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | January | February | March | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | January 1955 | February 1955 | March 1955 |
| Alabama | 274 | 251 | 380 | 3,883 | 4,260 | 3,943 | 3,950 | 3,908 | 3,956 |
| Arizona | 169 | 209 | 267 | 2,119 | 2,433 | 2,215 | 2,203 | 2,211 | 2,264 |
| Arkansas | 223 | 195 | 329 | 1,940 | 1,762 | 1,894 | 2,054 | 2,133 | 2,333 |
| California | 1,857 | 2,239 | 2,912 | 25,367 | 27,737 | 28,528 | 28,754 | 29,012 | 29,799 |
| Colorado | 164 | 112 | 261 | 2,826 | 2,941 | 3,285 | 3,308 | 3,230 | 3,287 |
| Connecticut | 130 | 130 | 269 | 2,977 | 3,194 | 3,258 | 3,282 | 3,256 | 3,257 |
| Delaware | 34 | 36 | 75 | 861 | 902 | 910 | 923 | 913 | 942 |
| District of Columbia | 88 | 65 | 116 | 1,156 | 1,249 | 1,324 | 1,353 | 1,321 | 1,341 |
| Florida | 778 | 767 | 857 | 6,680 | 7,487 | 8,354 | 8,483 | 8,638 | 8,821 |
| Georgia | 321 | 321 | 469 | 4,161 | 4,644 | 4,441 | 4,437 | 4,399 | 4,481 |
| Idaho | 20 | 22 | 71 | 1,116 | 986 | 1,215 | 1,209 | 1,189 | 1,193 |
| Illinois | 491 | 516 | 952 | 13,327 | 13,439 | 14,973 | 15,017 | 14,882 | 15,013 |
| Indiana | 218 | 239 | 528 | 6,207 | 6,568 | 6,724 | 6,721 | 6,630 | 6,753 |
| Iowa | 88 | 73 | 346 | 4,890 | 4,941 | 5,863 | 5,877 | 5,822 | 5,955 |
| Kansas | 248 | 214 | 564 | 5,939 | 5,801 | 6,576 | 6,615 | 6,457 | 6,614 |
| Kentucky | 117 | 126 | 228 | 3,621 | 3,354 | 3,026 | 3,038 | 2,972 | 2,959 |
| Louisiana | 448 | 413 | 619 | 5,869 | 5,728 | 6,292 | 6,387 | 6,294 | 6,410 |
| Maine | 24 | 20 | 94 | 692 | 894 | 857 | 861 | 861 | 921 |
| Maryland | 228 | 201 | 373 | 4,363 | 4,676 | 4,447 | 4,515 | 4,416 | 4,456 |
| Massachusetts | 199 | 187 | 395 | 4,347 | 4,351 | 4,180 | 4,234 | 4,234 | 4,273 |
| Michigan | 481 | 455 | 720 | 11,255 | 12,716 | 13,076 | 13,184 | 13,237 | 13,391 |
| Minnesota | 141 | 136 | 406 | 4,748 | 4,968 | 5,500 | 5,554 | 5,554 | 5,751 |
| Mississippi | 100 | 113 | 186 | 1,705 | 1,696 | 1,732 | 1,732 | 1,729 | 1,763 |
| Missouri | 289 | 306 | 637 | 6,319 | 6,796 | 7,556 | 7,593 | 7,434 | 7,553 |
| Montana | 29 | 22 | 31 | 1,358 | 949 | 1,019 | 1,027 | 1,015 | 989 |
| Nebraska | 84 | 82 | 217 | 2,629 | 3,384 | 3,724 | 3,751 | 3,715 | 3,745 |
| Nevada | 42 | 54 | 65 | 625 | 618 | 842 | 827 | 820 | 812 |
| New Hampshire | 24 | 21 | 47 | 451 | 549 | 827 | 834 | 834 | 844 |
| New Jersey | 388 | 404 | 755 | 8,084 | 8,581 | 9,164 | 9,173 | 9,045 | 8,991 |
| New Mexico | 144 | 152 | 180 | 1,645 | 1,860 | 2,111 | 2,156 | 2,175 | 2,212 |
| New York | 596 | 687 | 1,355 | 16,905 | 19,134 | 20,290 | 20,300 | 20,137 | 20,134 |
| North Carolina | 237 | 275 | 386 | 3,896 | 3,715 | 4,009 | 4,049 | 4,027 | 4,106 |
| North Dakota | 11 | 17 | 68 | 1,062 | 1,148 | 1,161 | 1,164 | 1,161 | 1,183 |
| Ohio | 515 | 496 | 999 | 13,021 | 14,286 | 16,003 | 16,001 | 15,777 | 15,927 |
| Oklahoma | 261 | 312 | 455 | 4,677 | 4,158 | 4,364 | 4,371 | 4,285 | 4,337 |
| Oregon | 126 | 138 | 182 | 2,902 | 2,445 | 2,081 | 2,136 | 2,153 | 2,164 |
| Pennsylvania | 588 | 556 | 1,112 | 15,055 | 15,234 | 15,108 | 15,220 | 15,045 | 15,196 |
| Rhode Island | 24 | 22 | 71 | 1,015 | 857 | 685 | 687 | 672 | 677 |
| South Carolina | 133 | 144 | 189 | 2,961 | 2,217 | 1,993 | 1,974 | 1,946 | 1,950 |
| South Dakota | 22 | 21 | 77 | 1,113 | 1,246 | 1,116 | 1,122 | 1,106 | 1,143 |
| Tennessee | 240 | 245 | 380 | 4,702 | 4,856 | 4,683 | 4,727 | 4,662 | 4,693 |
| Texas | 1,490 | 1,502 | 2,027 | 17,249 | 16,158 | 19,081 | 19,532 | 19,540 | 19,921 |
| Utah | 42 | 35 | 111 | 1,343 | 1,343 | 1,508 | 1,512 | 1,492 | 1,511 |
| Vermont | 3 | 4 | 16 | 321 | 300 | 242 | 241 | 241 | 244 |
| Virginia | 248 | 276 | 403 | 4,652 | 4,701 | 4,474 | 4,506 | 4,464 | 4,505 |
| Washington | 318 | 345 | 435 | 4,954 | 5,413 | 5,684 | 5,896 | 6,009 | 5,939 |
| West Virginia | 61 | 61 | 134 | 1,791 | 1,921 | 2,379 | 2,364 | 2,324 | 2,330 |
| Wisconsin | 181 | 175 | 324 | 5,673 | 6,127 | 5,840 | 5,899 | 5,914 | 5,992 |
| Wyoming | 19 | 15 | 29 | 561 | 538 | 585 | 582 | 565 | 567 |

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines).

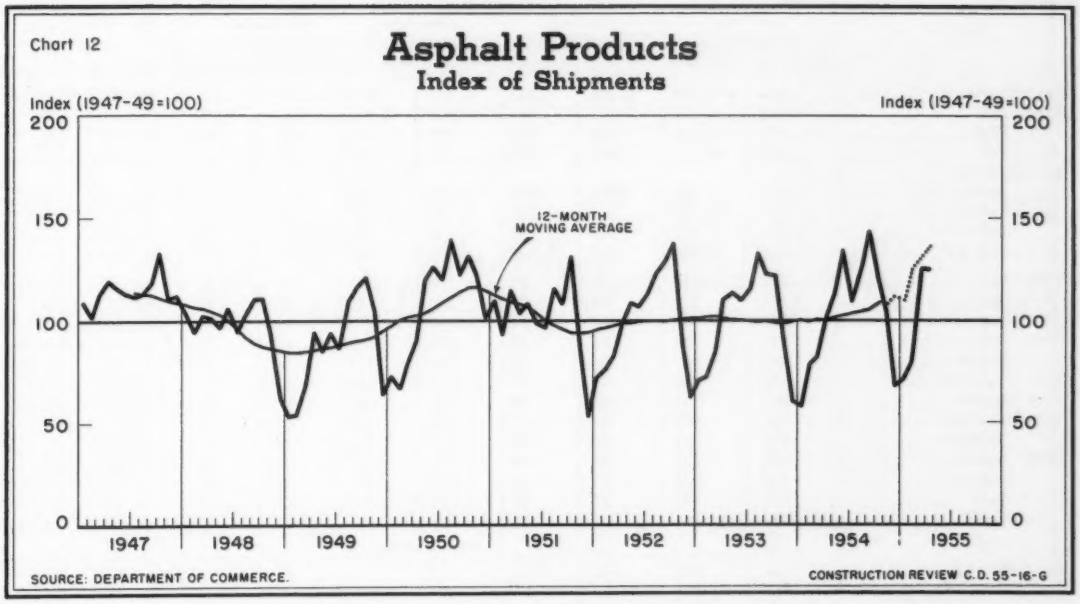


**Table 31.--Iron and Steel Products: Shipments, Bookings, and Backlog**

*(Thousands of tons)*

| Period | Shipments | | | | | | | | | Shipments | Bookings | Backlog [1] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Line pipe | Concrete reinforcing bars | Galvanized sheets | Nails | Piling | Rails | Cast-iron pipe: Pressure | Cast-iron pipe: Soil | Rigid steel conduit | Fabricated structural steel | | |
| 1947-49 average | 1,975 | 1,523 | 1,669 | 797 | 309 | 2,167 | 1,075 | 604 | 226 | 2,248 | 2,105 | -- |
| Year: 1952 | 2,882 | 1,813 | 1,961 | 651 | 235 | 1,454 | 1,312 | 651 | 225 | 2,664 | 2,504 | 1,033 |
| 1953 | 3,507 | 1,849 | 2,291 | 529 | 343 | 1,954 | 1,286 | 677 | 221 | 3,117 | 2,787 | 1,010 |
| 1954 | 2,595 | 1,751 | 2,363 | 567 | 388 | 1,196 | 1,376 | 744 | 228 | 3,136 | 2,510 | 743 |
| 12 months ending: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January 1955 | 2,518 | 1,756 | 2,405 | 578 | 379 | 1,115 | 1,386 | 757 | 234 | 3,116 | 2,573 | -- |
| February 1955 | 2,429 | 1,771 | 2,437 | 588 | 377 | 1,040 | 1,388 | 773 | 241 | 3,063 | 2,540 | -- |
| March 1955 | 2,418 | 1,807 | 2,496 | 598 | 369 | 996 | 1,405 | 794 | 248 | 3,019 | 2,631 | -- |
| April 1955 | 2,387 | 1,845 | 2,533 | 608 | 360 | 992 | 1,435 | 804 | •255 | 2,967 | 2,716 | -- |
| 1954: April | 284 | 146 | 202 | 52 | 36 | 122 | 116 | 66 | 16 | 294 | 185 | 924 |
| May | 257 | 163 | 202 | 51 | 32 | 82 | 123 | 65 | 17 | 254 | 199 | 909 |
| June | 275 | 211 | 200 | 55 | 35 | 108 | 131 | 67 | 21 | 290 | 219 | 848 |
| July | 212 | 168 | 214 | 47 | 26 | 80 | 98 | 59 | 23 | 265 | 263 | 872 |
| August | 232 | 152 | 207 | 53 | 40 | 71 | 127 | 68 | 23 | 272 | 193 | 822 |
| September | 225 | 151 | 210 | 55 | 26 | 63 | 124 | 71 | 22 | 265 | 207 | 797 |
| October | 203 | 150 | 209 | 49 | 38 | 59 | 130 | 68 | 22 | 258 | 212 | 763 |
| November | 132 | 138 | 197 | 43 | 31 | 49 | 118 | 65 | 23 | 230 | 195 | 730 |
| December | 92 | 123 | 206 | 32 | 28 | 40 | 111 | 55 | 20 | 224 | 197 | 743 |
| 1955: January | 119 | 116 | 211 | 49 | 21 | 97 | 101 | 61 | 19 | 226 | 241 | 781 |
| February | 135 | 128 | 199 | 51 | 27 | 103 | 95 | 67 | 20 | 213 | 234 | 802 |
| March | 254 | 161 | 239 | 61 | 29 | 122 | 130 | 83 | 23 | 228 | 285 | 877 |
| April | 253 | 184 | 239 | 62 | 27 | 118 | 146 | 76 | •23 | 242 | 270 | 881 |
| | Percent change | | | | | | | | | | | |
| April, 1954-55 | -11 | +26 | +18 | +19 | -25 | - 3 | +26 | +15 | +40 | -18 | +46 | -5 |
| First 4 mos., 1954-55 | -21 | +19 | +24 | +23 | -21 | -32 | +14 | +27 | +47 | -16 | +25 | -- |

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Electric Manufacturers Association, the American Institute of Steel Construction, and the Bureau of the Census. • Estimated.

[1] Scheduled for fabrication in the next 4 months.

**Table 32.--Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments**

| Period | Brick, common and face (*Million brick*) | | Structural clay tile (*Thousand tons*) | | Vitrified clay sewer pipe (*Thousand tons*) | | Hollow facing tile (*Million brick equivalent*) | | Glazed & unglazed floor & wall tile (*Thousand square feet*) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Production | Shipments | Production | Shipments | Production | Shipments | Production | Shipments | Production | Shipments |
| 1947-49 average | 5,504 | 5,324 | 1,286 | 1,231 | 1,451 | 1,375 | 357 | 341 | 104,800 | 101,088 |
| Year: 1952 | 5,889 | 5,642 | 977 | 994 | 1,649 | 1,548 | 413 | 389 | 132,085 | 123,267 |
| 1953 | 5,875 | 5,771 | 990 | 922 | 1,655 | 1,563 | 456 | 444 | 137,429 | 134,375 |
| 1954 | 6,153 | 6,119 | 953 | 895 | 1,702 | 1,636 | 457 | 444 | 141,066 | 139,515 |
| 12 months ending: | | | | | | | | | | |
| January 1955 | 6,243 | 6,236 | 951 | 904 | 1,716 | 1,652 | 457 | 444 | 144,138 | 142,602 |
| February 1955 | 6,313 | 6,259 | 944 | 900 | 1,726 | 1,660 | 457 | 445 | 146,865 | 145,253 |
| March 1955 | 6,403 | 6,367 | 935 | 890 | 1,744 | 1,680 | 460 | 448 | 150,064 | 149,501 |
| April 1955 | 6,458 | 6,440 | 917 | 879 | 1,749 | 1,684 | 452 | 439 | 152,601 | 152,490 |
| 1954: April | 514 | 532 | 83 | 81 | 138 | 143 | 40 | 40 | 12,013 | 11,831 |
| May | 523 | 528 | 83 | 81 | 137 | 140 | 33 | 32 | 11,019 | 10,727 |
| June | 554 | 588 | 87 | 84 | 151 | 150 | 41 | 40 | 11,490 | 11,609 |
| July | 538 | 574 | 84 | 79 | 135 | 153 | 40 | 38 | 11,446 | 11,765 |
| August | 583 | 587 | 84 | 81 | 149 | 162 | 40 | 40 | 11,610 | 12,368 |
| September | 576 | 589 | 81 | 77 | 156 | 158 | 38 | 38 | 12,399 | 12,756 |
| October | 561 | 571 | 81 | 79 | 148 | 153 | 37 | 38 | 12,308 | 12,272 |
| November | 557 | 549 | 80 | 72 | 149 | 140 | 40 | 38 | 12,477 | 12,222 |
| December | 519 | 464 | 69 | 64 | 151 | 122 | 42 | 39 | 12,880 | 12,358 |
| 1955: January | 468 | 412 | 66 | 64 | 132 | 101 | 36 | 33 | 13,973 | 13,258 |
| February | 446 | 405 | 65 | 60 | 134 | 109 | 33 | 33 | 13,111 | 12,528 |
| March | 563 | 568 | 72 | 69 | 163 | 149 | 40 | 39 | 15,338 | 15,807 |
| April | 569 | 605 | 65 | 70 | 143 | 147 | 32 | 31 | 14,550 | 14,820 |
| | Percent change | | | | | | | | | |
| April, 1954-55 | +11 | +14 | -22 | -14 | + 4 | + 3 | -20 | -23 | +21 | +25 |
| First 4 mos., 1954-55 | +17 | +19 | -12 | - 6 | + 9 | +10 | - 4 | - 3 | +25 | +30 |

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census.

**Table 33.--Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments, by Census Region [1]**

| Census region | PRODUCTION | | | | SHIPMENTS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | April 1955 | | First 4 months 1955 | | April 1955 | | First 4 months 1955 | |
| | Quantity | Percent change from April 1954 | Quantity | Percent change, 1954-55 | Quantity | Percent change from April 1954 | Quantity | Percent change, 1954-55 |
| | Brick, common and face (*thousands*) | | | | | | | |
| U. S. TOTAL | 569,355 | +11 | 2,046,159 | +17 | 605,391 | +14 | 1,990,889 | +19 |
| New England | 9,399 | + 6 | 33,351 | +28 | 9,279 | +12 | 29,592 | + 8 |
| Middle Atlantic | 88,196 | - 9 | 307,263 | - 2 | 95,133 | - 3 | 286,676 | + 4 |
| East North Central | 135,325 | + 4 | 467,309 | +11 | 141,413 | +11 | 440,171 | +14 |
| West North Central | 29,526 | +34 | 106,438 | +34 | 30,073 | +30 | 92,223 | +28 |
| South Atlantic | 141,466 | +17 | 519,447 | +20 | 155,534 | +22 | 523,147 | +25 |
| East South Central | 51,830 | +15 | 195,187 | +21 | 55,700 | +16 | 192,960 | +21 |
| West South Central | 68,076 | +24 | 259,280 | +28 | 67,012 | +21 | 247,338 | +28 |
| Mountain | 20,745 | +35 | 73,680 | +31 | 20,737 | +18 | 71,387 | +25 |
| Pacific | 24,792 | +25 | 84,204 | +70 | 30,510 | +12 | 107,395 | +30 |
| | Structural clay tile (*tons*) | | | | | | | |
| U. S. TOTAL | 65,146 | -22 | 268,881 | -12 | 70,105 | -13 | 262,463 | - 6 |
| Middle Atlantic | 5,717 | -17 | 25,763 | - 1 | 7,824 | +30 | 26,558 | +11 |
| East North Central | 8,607 | -10 | 41,288 | +12 | 9,753 | -12 | 41,490 | + 7 |
| West North Central | 9,650 | -27 | 34,721 | -27 | 10,873 | -22 | 31,076 | -26 |
| South Atlantic | 12,636 | -23 | 49,528 | -22 | 14,246 | - 9 | 54,615 | + 1 |
| East South Central | 5,092 | -49 | 26,102 | -15 | 5,930 | -24 | 26,885 | + 3 |
| West South Central | 22,005 | - 4 | 84,529 | - 2 | 19,568 | -16 | 74,858 | -11 |
| Mountain & Pacific | 1,439 | -66 | 6,950 | -48 | 1,911 | -38 | 6,981 | -26 |
| | Vitrified clay sewer pipe (*tons*) | | | | | | | |
| U. S. TOTAL | 142,879 | + 3 | 572,497 | + 9 | 147,018 | + 3 | 505,255 | +10 |
| Middle Atlantic | 16,220 | + 5 | 60,015 | - 4 | 16,988 | - 1 | 48,345 | + 8 |
| East North Central | 47,409 | -14 | 218,113 | + 7 | 50,405 | -12 | 190,362 | + 4 |
| West North Central | 17,216 | + 8 | 66,466 | +11 | 21,084 | +22 | 57,598 | + 3 |
| South Atlantic | 13,578 | +43 | 44,984 | +26 | 13,752 | +44 | 44,249 | +25 |
| E. & W. South Central | 23,191 | +12 | 81,083 | + 6 | 19,363 | - 3 | 71,853 | +10 |
| Mountain | 2,744 | -31 | 14,181 | + 2 | 3,168 | -23 | 12,269 | - 4 |
| Pacific | 22,521 | +27 | 87,655 | +20 | 22,258 | +27 | 80,579 | +31 |

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown under table 2.

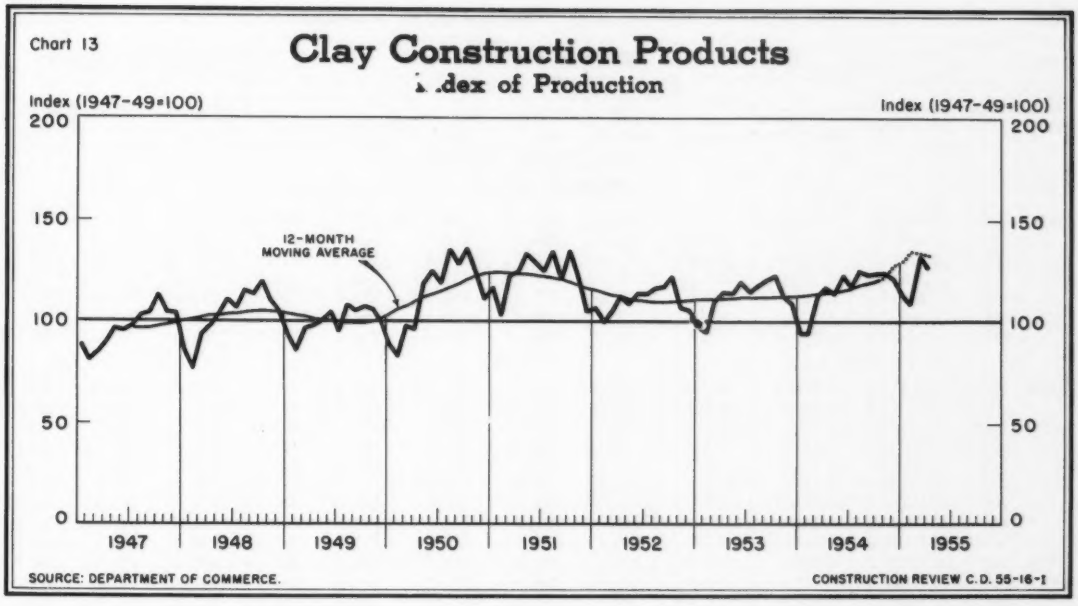


**Table 34.--Heating and Plumbing Equipment: Shipments and Stocks**

| Period | Gas water heaters (Thousands of units) | | C. I. convectors and radiators (Thousand square feet) | | Warm air furnaces (Thousands of units) | | Floor and wall furnaces (Thousands of units) | | Residential oil burners [1] (Thousands of units) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Shipments | Stocks | Shipments | Stocks | Shipments | Stocks | Shipments | Stocks | Shipments |
| 1947-49 average | 1,818 | 67 | 50,980 | 4,377 | 794 | 69 | 552 | 44 | 541 |
| Year: 1952 | 1,996 | 74 | 36,898 | 3,859 | 928 | 106 | 548 | 59 | 505 |
| 1953 | 2,274 | 128 | 31,667 | 4,650 | 997 | 148 | 552 | 108 | 541 |
| 1954 | 2,236 | 103 | 28,386 | 5,434 | 1,132 | 130 | 550 | 74 | 494 |
| 12 months ending: | | | | | | | | | |
| January 1955 | 2,275 | -- | 28,020 | -- | 1,160 | -- | 558 | -- | 504 |
| February 1955 | 2,319 | -- | 28,094 | -- | 1,183 | -- | 567 | -- | 516 |
| March 1955 | 2,384 | -- | 28,781 | -- | 1,201 | -- | 576 | -- | 524 |
| April 1955 | 2,419 | -- | *28,800 | -- | 1,221 | -- | 582 | -- | 531 |
| 1954: April | 197 | 73 | 2,285 | 7,453 | 72 | 165 | 34 | 97 | 32 |
| May | 192 | 83 | 1,745 | 7,696 | 82 | 170 | 34 | 98 | 33 |
| June | 203 | 102 | 2,208 | 7,903 | 95 | 172 | 41 | 95 | 45 |
| July | 187 | 85 | 1,937 | 7,438 | 92 | 166 | 41 | 91 | 40 |
| August | 203 | 90 | 3,315 | 6,765 | 130 | 153 | 58 | 92 | 56 |
| September | 201 | 87 | 3,217 | 6,478 | 148 | 133 | 68 | 75 | 62 |
| October | 198 | 91 | 3,354 | 5,915 | 138 | 122 | 76 | 63 | 69 |
| November | 176 | 95 | 2,700 | 5,400 | 108 | 121 | 60 | 59 | 42 |
| December | 163 | 103 | 1,956 | 5,434 | 81 | 130 | 45 | 74 | 29 |
| 1955: January | 200 | 97 | 1,675 | 5,876 | 85 | 137 | 39 | 76 | 39 |
| February | 215 | 94 | 1,970 | 6,106 | 80 | 145 | 38 | 81 | 39 |
| March | 249 | 103 | 2,419 | 6,416 | 87 | 176 | 41 | 81 | 39 |
| April | 232 | 94 | *2,304 | (2) | 92 | 189 | 40 | 82 | 39 |
| | Percent change | | | | | | | | |
| April, 1954-55 | +18 | +29 | +1 | -- | +28 | +15 | +18 | -15 | +22 |
| First 4 mos., 1954-55 | +26 | -- | +5 | -- | +34 | -- | +25 | -- | +30 |

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. *Estimated. [1] Sold separately. ✓ [2] Not yet available.

## Table 35.--Contract Construction: Employment by Type of Contractor

| Period | All contractors | Building contractors | | | | | | | Nonbuilding contractors | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | All building contractors | General contractors | Special trades contractors | | | | | All nonbuilding | Highway and street | Other nonbuilding |
| | | | | All special trades | Plumbing and heating | Painting and decorating | Electrical work | Other trades | | | |
| | NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES *(in thousands)* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year: 1948 | 2,169.0 | 1,753.0 | 807.0 | 946.0 | 238.2 | 124.9 | 123.2 | 459.8 | 416.0 | 172.1 | 243.8 |
| 1949 | 2,165.0 | 1,736.0 | 779.0 | 957.0 | 241.7 | 123.4 | 122.1 | 469.5 | 428.0 | 178.1 | 250.3 |
| 1950 | 2,333.0 | 1,885.0 | 844.0 | 1,041.0 | 263.1 | 130.8 | 123.4 | 524.0 | 448.0 | 183.0 | 265.2 |
| 1951 | 2,603.0 | 2,109.0 | 957.6 | 1,151.7 | 286.9 | 155.7 | 140.5 | 568.7 | 493.0 | 201.3 | 291.9 |
| 1952 | 2,634.0 | 2,119.0 | 948.3 | 1,170.8 | 287.7 | 156.5 | 155.7 | 570.9 | 514.0 | 209.4 | 305.0 |
| 1953 | 2,622.0 | 2,109.0 | 934.0 | 1,175.1 | 288.9 | 148.1 | 159.7 | 578.4 | 513.0 | 214.9 | 297.8 |
| 1954 | 2,527.0 | 2,021.0 | 848.8 | 1,172.7 | 283.4 | 141.4 | 156.5 | 591.5 | 506.0 | 217.4 | 288.2 |
| 1954: Apr. | 2,452.0 | 1,971.0 | 832.4 | 1,138.4 | 276.1 | 134.4 | 153.1 | 574.8 | 481.0 | 198.0 | 282.7 |
| May | 2,542.0 | 2,012.0 | 854.2 | 1,158.0 | 276.7 | 138.9 | 154.5 | 587.9 | 530.0 | 230.8 | 299.3 |
| June | 2,629.0 | 2,070.0 | 877.2 | 1,192.3 | 280.7 | 150.2 | 157.6 | 603.8 | 559.0 | 255.2 | 303.7 |
| July | 2,686.0 | 2,113.0 | 899.8 | 1,213.3 | 286.3 | 154.6 | 159.9 | 612.5 | 573.0 | 264.1 | 308.8 |
| Aug. | 2,735.0 | 2,151.0 | 915.2 | 1,236.2 | 293.1 | 160.2 | 158.6 | 624.3 | 584.0 | 268.4 | 315.5 |
| Sept. | 2,698.0 | 2,129.0 | 897.6 | 1,231.1 | 291.4 | 157.0 | 155.0 | 627.7 | 569.0 | 262.1 | 306.9 |
| Oct. | 2,652.0 | 2,099.0 | 877.2 | 1,221.9 | 291.1 | 148.4 | 155.5 | 626.9 | 553.0 | 252.6 | 300.7 |
| Nov. | 2,598.0 | 2,074.0 | 862.6 | 1,211.7 | 288.1 | 144.2 | 155.4 | 624.0 | 524.0 | 231.2 | 292.6 |
| Dec. | 2,426.0 | 1,975.0 | 801.9 | 1,173.4 | 283.1 | 135.5 | 153.7 | 601.1 | 451.0 | 186.0 | 265.2 |
| 1955: Jan. | 2,237.0 | 1,839.0 | 733.3 | 1,106.1 | 270.6 | 121.6 | 148.5 | 565.4 | 398.0 | 152.6 | 244.9 |
| Feb. | 2,169.0 | 1,780.0 | 694.6 | 1,085.6 | 264.7 | 121.7 | 144.6 | 554.6 | 389.0 | 147.4 | 241.2 |
| Mar. | 2,255.0 | 1,844.0 | 723.9 | 1,119.9 | 266.3 | 129.2 | 143.6 | 580.8 | 411.0 | 161.9 | 249.0 |
| Apr. | 2,396.0 | 1,933.0 | 759.4 | 1,173.7 | 272.0 | 140.5 | 143.4 | 617.8 | 463.0 | 195.3 | 267.4 |
| | Percent change | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mar.-Apr. 1955 | +6.3 | +4.8 | +4.9 | +4.8 | +2.1 | +8.7 | −0.1 | +6.4 | +12.7 | +20.6 | +7.4 |
| Apr. 1954-55 | −2.3 | −1.9 | −8.8 | +3.1 | −1.5 | +4.5 | −6.3 | +7.5 | − 3.7 | − 1.4 | −5.4 |

Source: Department of Labor.

## Table 36.--Contract Construction: Indexes of Employment (Seasonally Adjusted), and Indexes of Weekly Man-Hours

*(1947-49 = 100)*

| Year | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Annual average |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT *(seasonally adjusted)* [1] | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1948 | 100.8 | 95.8 | 98.2 | 100.1 | 101.6 | 103.9 | 104.6 | 105.2 | 105.6 | 106.0 | 106.9 | 107.0 | 103.1 |
| 1949 | 105.7 | 103.2 | 102.0 | 101.2 | 101.0 | 101.3 | 102.6 | 103.5 | 104.5 | 104.2 | 104.1 | 101.8 | 102.9 |
| 1950 | 100.8 | 99.9 | 100.1 | 103.3 | 106.3 | 111.1 | 114.4 | 116.5 | 117.6 | 119.0 | 119.7 | 117.5 | 110.9 |
| 1951 | 120.1 | 119.9 | 122.2 | 123.3 | 123.4 | 124.3 | 125.2 | 125.6 | 125.1 | 126.2 | 123.9 | 124.6 | 123.8 |
| 1952 | 123.6 | 124.8 | 123.1 | 123.0 | 123.5 | 125.8 | 126.4 | 127.1 | 127.5 | 125.9 | 126.0 | 125.2 | 125.2 |
| 1953 | 124.4 | 124.7 | 124.7 | 124.0 | 123.5 | 123.4 | 124.1 | 124.5 | 125.8 | 126.2 | 125.2 | 124.1 | 124.6 |
| 1954 | 119.0 | 120.7 | 122.1 | 121.3 | 120.8 | 120.1 | 120.4 | 120.3 | 119.8 | 118.9 | 119.8 | 117.6 | 120.0 |
| 1955 | 116.8 | 114.5 | 117.7 | 118.6 | | | | | | | | | |
| | INDEXES OF WEEKLY MAN-HOURS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1948 | 89.6 | 81.3 | 86.7 | 95.0 | 102.2 | 111.9 | 115.1 | 117.3 | 116.2 | 113.3 | 106.6 | 105.4 | 103.4 |
| 1949 | 94.2 | 88.9 | 89.2 | 95.0 | 103.1 | 106.8 | 110.5 | 114.2 | 111.5 | 111.4 | 104.4 | 94.9 | 102.0 |
| 1950 | 84.6 | 79.5 | 83.7 | 95.8 | 106.1 | 116.7 | 122.1 | 129.5 | 126.1 | 128.9 | 123.9 | 112.7 | 109.1 |
| 1951 | 106.4 | 99.3 | 105.4 | 116.9 | 126.4 | 131.8 | 137.7 | 141.1 | 138.5 | 139.8 | 124.2 | 121.6 | 124.1 |
| 1952 | 111.1 | 112.3 | 108.3 | 117.5 | 125.4 | 136.8 | 138.9 | 143.2 | 144.0 | 139.9 | 128.2 | 123.9 | 127.5 |
| 1953 | 109.1 | 108.7 | 109.1 | 115.8 | 122.6 | 130.4 | 132.0 | 137.2 | 131.7 | 136.7 | 126.7 | 117.2 | 123.1 |
| 1954 | 95.5 | 102.8 | 106.4 | 112.1 | 118.2 | 124.6 | 127.5 | 129.8 | 123.8 | 123.5 | 118.2 | 108.9 | 115.9 |
| 1955 | 96.0 | 92.4 | 100.6 | 105.9 | | | | | | | | | |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Indexes for months before January 1953 are based on seasonally adjusted employment data derived by the Federal Reserve Board.

**Table 37.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected States**

| State | Number of employees *(in thousands)* | | | | | | | | | | | Percent change, April 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | | | | 1955 | | | | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | |
| | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | Apr. | Apr. | Apr. | |
| Alabama | 35.3 | 35.8 | 35.2 | 31.6 | 29.2 | 29.9 | 31.1 | 31.7 | 37.5 | 30.3 | 30.2 | + 5 |
| Arizona | 15.9 | 15.8 | 15.8 | 16.0 | 15.1 | 15.0 | 15.9 | 16.2 | 14.9 | 18.1 | 17.9 | - 9 |
| Arkansas | 16.9 | 16.8 | 16.4 | 15.6 | 16.5 | 17.3 | 17.6 | 18.0 | 20.8 | 19.3 | 14.2 | +27 |
| California[1] | 262.5 | 264.0 | 257.7 | 258.1 | 243.9 | 249.6 | 255.4 | 263.8 | 222.4 | 255.1 | 237.0 | +11 |
| Colorado | 25.9 | 25.7 | 25.0 | 23.8 | 22.2 | 21.1 | 22.1 | 23.8 | 26.5 | 27.3 | 23.8 | 0 |
| Connecticut[2] | 42.3 | 41.9 | 41.1 | 40.0 | 38.2 | 36.3 | 37.6 | 41.4 | 40.5 | 36.3 | 38.0 | + 9 |
| District of Columbia | 19.4 | 19.3 | 19.0 | 18.0 | 17.0 | 16.6 | 17.1 | 18.5 | 18.9 | 17.4 | 16.9 | + 9 |
| Florida | 82.0 | 81.9 | 83.3 | 82.9 | 78.7 | 77.8 | 78.4 | 79.1 | 68.1 | 73.1 | 80.5 | - 2 |
| Georgia | 51.2 | 52.1 | 50.5 | 49.2 | 49.7 | 50.1 | 52.3 | 52.4 | 45.8 | 47.8 | 47.0 | +11 |
| Idaho | 10.5 | 9.1 | 7.3 | 6.1 | 4.9 | 5.1 | 5.7 | 7.6 | 9.5 | 8.4 | 7.1 | + 7 |
| Illinois | 179.4 | 175.1 | 171.3 | 159.8 | 146.1 | 139.6 | 145.5 | 154.7 | 157.8 | 160.3 | 154.8 | (3) |
| Indiana | 63.1 | 61.8 | 63.3 | 59.8 | 56.3 | 54.0 | 57.9 | 63.1 | 61.9 | 58.3 | 54.2 | +16 |
| Iowa | 36.2 | 35.5 | 35.2 | 30.2 | 25.4 | 23.8 | 25.9 | 29.6 | 29.3 | 29.1 | 28.0 | + 6 |
| Kansas | 43.4 | 41.2 | 39.5 | 35.5 | 32.5 | 31.0 | 35.8 | 39.1 | 36.9 | 33.9 | 36.2 | + 8 |
| Louisiana | 53.2 | 51.9 | 50.3 | 49.4 | 44.0 | 44.3 | 45.3 | 45.5 | 50.8 | 56.0 | 53.3 | -15 |
| Maine | 14.3 | 14.5 | 14.1 | 12.7 | 10.7 | 9.9 | 9.7 | 11.4 | 10.4 | 9.7 | 11.6 | - 2 |
| Maryland | 63.3 | 61.5 | 60.5 | 56.3 | 53.6 | 51.6 | 55.9 | 59.5 | 60.1 | 59.2 | 58.8 | + 1 |
| Massachusetts[1] | 77.8 | 78.4 | 79.2 | 73.8 | 66.5 | 61.9 | 66.4 | 73.9 | 72.0 | 66.4 | 69.0 | + 7 |
| Michigan | 124.5 | 123.2 | 122.0 | 111.4 | 101.6 | 96.6 | 95.1 | 99.3 | 98.7 | 96.4 | 107.7 | - 8 |
| Minnesota | 60.7 | 60.4 | 58.7 | 50.3 | 45.2 | 42.7 | 42.9 | 49.2 | 41.3 | 42.0 | 43.3 | +14 |
| Mississippi | 17.3 | 16.6 | 16.7 | 15.5 | 16.2 | 15.9 | 16.8 | 17.0 | 18.1 | 18.5 | 15.5 | +10 |
| Missouri | 72.6 | 68.8 | 68.2 | 65.2 | 60.1 | 60.6 | 65.7 | 67.6 | 60.7 | 57.1 | 63.0 | + 7 |
| Montana | 12.6 | 12.0 | 9.9 | 8.5 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 7.0 | 10.3 | 8.5 | 8.3 | -16 |
| Nebraska | 23.7 | 23.1 | 21.8 | 18.8 | 15.8 | 15.7 | 16.9 | 19.7 | 28.3 | 17.1 | 19.4 | + 2 |
| Nevada | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 7.8 | 8.3 | 8.5 | 9.5 | 6.5 | 8.4 | 8.2 | +16 |
| New Hampshire | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 7.8 | 6.4 | 6.1 | 6.7 | 8.7 | 6.7 | 6.0 | 7.0 | +24 |
| New Jersey | 100.1 | 100.5 | 98.5 | 94.9 | 86.5 | 80.1 | 86.6 | 93.3 | 91.8 | 89.5 | 97.6 | - 4 |
| New Mexico | 15.5 | 15.1 | 14.4 | 14.0 | 13.1 | 13.1 | 13.9 | 14.8 | 14.2 | 13.9 | 13.2 | +12 |
| New York | 250.3 | 246.0 | 238.3 | 220.8 | 202.9 | 194.6 | 203.1 | 217.7 | 210.3 | 211.7 | 225.3 | - 3 |
| North Carolina | 48.6 | 48.0 | 47.7 | 45.3 | 43.5 | 42.5 | 44.4 | 44.5 | 56.5 | 50.5 | 47.1 | - 6 |
| North Dakota | 13.1 | 13.1 | 11.0 | 8.4 | 6.3 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 8.2 | 5.7 | 6.8 | 8.5 | - 4 |
| Ohio | 164.8 | 161.1 | 154.7 | 143.4 | 130.0 | 122.1 | 127.4 | 137.8 | 140.1 | 134.8 | 145.7 | - 5 |
| Oklahoma | 32.4 | 31.2 | 31.4 | 29.8 | 27.5 | 28.2 | 29.5 | 31.2 | 33.4 | 33.9 | 29.9 | + 4 |
| Oregon | 26.1 | 25.0 | 22.2 | 20.9 | 19.2 | 18.5 | 19.4 | 20.6 | 24.4 | 22.1 | 20.5 | (3) |
| Pennsylvania | 212.8 | 213.4 | 206.0 | 191.1 | 177.0 | 166.9 | 179.5 | 199.9 | 178.9 | 179.8 | 178.8 | +12 |
| Rhode Island | 17.2 | 17.7 | 17.2 | 16.5 | 15.0 | 14.6 | 15.7 | 17.0 | 15.0 | 14.8 | 14.7 | +16 |
| South Carolina | 39.1 | 38.1 | 35.9 | 34.7 | 33.6 | 34.2 | 34.2 | 35.6 | 55.4 | 52.3 | 39.6 | -10 |
| South Dakota | 10.5 | 10.2 | 8.6 | 7.4 | 6.4 | 6.1 | 7.3 | 9.0 | 7.5 | 8.3 | 8.4 | + 7 |
| Tennessee | 61.1 | 61.0 | 59.8 | 56.4 | 52.4 | 51.0 | 52.2 | (4) | 45.9 | 50.3 | 50.9 | -- |
| Texas | 154.6 | 152.0 | 155.2 | 151.1 | 148.6 | 155.6 | 162.4 | 162.6 | 166.1 | 172.9 | 140.2 | +16 |
| Utah | 13.7 | 13.6 | 13.2 | 11.7 | 9.3 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 11.4 | 10.5 | 11.5 | 9.4 | +21 |
| Vermont | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.6 | 2.7 | 3.5 | 3.7 | - 3 |
| Virginia | 60.9 | 62.4 | 60.6 | 56.7 | 55.0 | 55.0 | 57.1 | 59.1 | 62.9 | 59.5 | 54.2 | + 9 |
| Washington | 51.9 | 49.3 | 46.9 | 44.4 | 41.2 | 39.3 | 41.1 | 44.7 | 49.0 | 45.4 | 46.3 | - 3 |
| West Virginia | 19.2 | 19.4 | 18.1 | 14.7 | 14.3 | 13.7 | 15.2 | 16.2 | 15.8 | 17.4 | 18.5 | -12 |
| Wisconsin | 56.8 | 57.8 | 56.7 | 52.2 | 48.1 | 45.9 | 47.3 | 50.8 | 43.7 | 49.1 | 45.0 | +13 |
| Wyoming | 6.8 | 7.0 | 5.7 | 5.0 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.7 | 6.1 | 5.7 | 5.0 | - 6 |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Revised series; not strictly comparable with previously published data. [2] Includes a small number of employees in mining. [3] Change of less than 0.5 percent. [4] Not yet available.

**Table 38.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas**

| Area | Number of employees *(in thousands)* | | | | | | | | | | | Percent change, April 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | | | | 1955 | | | | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | |
| | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | Apr. | Apr. | Apr. | |
| Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N.Y. .. | 8.3 | 8.6 | 7.6 | 6.6 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 5.4 | 6.1 | 6.6 | 6.8 | -21 |
| Albuquerque, N. Mex. | 5.0 | 5.1 | 4.9 | 5.1 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 4.6 | 5.6 | 4.4 | +16 |
| Atlanta, Ga. | 17.3 | 18.0 | 18.3 | 18.1 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 18.0 | 18.3 | 15.3 | 14.7 | 15.3 | +20 |
| Baltimore, Md. | 40.0 | 38.3 | 37.6 | 35.1 | 33.6 | 31.9 | 34.4 | 36.2 | 35.8 | 36.1 | 37.7 | - 4 |
| Baton Rouge, La. | 6.7 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | (1) | (1) | 5.4 | 0 |
| Binghamton, N. Y. | 3.3 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 2.6 | + 8 |
| Birmingham, Ala. | 11.8 | 12.1 | 11.8 | 11.1 | 10.7 | 11.1 | 11.3 | (1) | 11.1 | 10.2 | 10.1 | -- |
| Boise, Idaho | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 1.5 | - 7 |
| Boston, Mass. | 41.1 | 41.7 | 42.0 | 39.9 | 36.4 | 33.4 | 36.7 | 41.5 | 42.5 | 40.0 | 37.7 | +10 |
| Bridgeport, Conn. [2] | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 4.8 | + 4 |
| Buffalo, N. Y. | 21.2 | 21.0 | 19.7 | 17.0 | 15.1 | 13.7 | 13.6 | 13.3 | 17.2 | 17.8 | 17.2 | -23 |
| Casper, Wyo. | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.4 | .9 | .8 | .9 | .8 | .8 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | -27 |
| Charleston, S. C. | 3.7 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.7 | + 8 |
| Charleston, W. Va. | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.8 | 3.3 | 4.3 | - 9 |
| Charlotte, N. C. | 6.0 | 5.8 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 5.0 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 6.2 | 5.3 | 6.0 | -13 |
| Chattanooga, Tenn. | 4.6 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.3 | 3.4 | 5.0 | 3.9 | +10 |
| Chicago, Ill. | 113.6 | 111.2 | 110.7 | 104.0 | 97.8 | 94.8 | 99.6 | 104.8 | 102.0 | 106.6 | 103.2 | + 2 |
| Denver, Colo. | 16.6 | 16.7 | 15.7 | 14.7 | 13.7 | 13.0 | 13.4 | 14.3 | 17.3 | 17.7 | 15.4 | - 7 |
| Des Moines, Iowa | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 5.3 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 3.8 | 4.1 | 4.8 | +13 |
| Detroit, Mich. | 74.2 | 73.9 | 73.6 | 67.5 | 61.7 | 59.4 | 56.9 | 59.0 | (1) | 54.0 | 63.6 | - 7 |
| Duluth, Minn. | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 1.8 | +22 |
| Great Falls, Mont. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | (1) | 1.2 | 1.2 | + 8 |
| Harrisburg, Pa. | 7.9 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 6.4 | 5.6 | 5.3 | 6.1 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 5.6 | 5.4 | +31 |
| Hartford, Conn. [2] | 9.5 | 9.4 | 9.2 | 8.8 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 8.1 | 8.9 | 9.1 | 7.5 | 8.4 | + 6 |
| Indianapolis, Ind. | 9.8 | 9.1 | 9.1 | 8.4 | 8.2 | 8.0 | 8.6 | 8.8 | 11.5 | 10.7 | 9.1 | - 3 |
| Jacksonville, Fla. | 9.4 | 9.3 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 9.3 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 8.7 | 8.3 | 9.5 | - 7 |
| Kansas City, Mo. | 18.0 | 16.8 | 18.0 | 18.9 | 18.6 | 18.4 | 19.0 | (1) | 19.0 | 20.5 | 20.3 | -- |
| Knoxville, Tenn. | 16.3 | 16.4 | 16.4 | 13.8 | 12.5 | 11.5 | 11.0 | 10.4 | 5.4 | 10.5 | 12.2 | -15 |
| Lewiston, Maine | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.0 | .9 | .9 | 1.0 | .9 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0 |
| Little Rock-N. Little Rock, Ark. | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.2 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.5 | +38 |
| Los Angeles, Calif. [3] | 120.4 | 120.8 | 120.2 | 123.0 | 116.8 | 120.4 | 123.3 | 126.5 | 99.8 | 116.1 | 114.0 | +11 |
| Manchester, N. H. | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | +21 |
| Memphis, Tenn. | 9.9 | 9.9 | 10.0 | 9.9 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 9.9 | 10.1 | 10.6 | 9.9 | 9.6 | + 5 |
| Miami, Fla. | 21.5 | 21.4 | 24.1 | 24.5 | 23.2 | 22.9 | 23.6 | 23.6 | 15.3 | 16.2 | 20.3 | +16 |
| Milwaukee, Wis. | 20.0 | 20.3 | 20.4 | 19.5 | 18.3 | 17.4 | 18.2 | 19.6 | (1) | (1) | 17.0 | +15 |
| Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn. | 34.5 | 34.3 | 33.0 | 28.5 | 25.2 | 24.3 | 25.2 | 30.1 | 25.2 | 25.0 | 25.4 | +19 |
| Mobile, Ala. | 3.0 | 3.7 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 4.4 | (1) | 4.8 | 4.1 | + 7 |
| Nashville, Tenn. [2] | 8.3 | 8.0 | 7.4 | 7.0 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.6 | 6.9 | (1) | 9.0 | 7.1 | - 3 |
| Nassau-Suffolk Counties, N. Y. .. | 28.3 | 29.0 | 28.4 | 27.3 | 25.1 | 23.2 | 26.1 | 28.2 | (1) | 26.7 | 29.9 | - 6 |
| Newark-Jersey City, N. J. | 29.5 | 29.6 | 28.6 | 28.6 | 25.5 | 24.4 | 26.4 | 28.5 | (1) | 28.5 | 30.3 | - 6 |
| New Bedford, Mass. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.1 | +18 |
| New Britain, Conn. [2] | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0 |
| New Haven, Conn. [2] | 6.2 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.6 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 5.0 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.1 | 5.4 | 0 |
| New Orleans, La. | 21.7 | 20.9 | 20.7 | 20.2 | 19.9 | 19.5 | 20.1 | 20.1 | 19.8 | 20.1 | 21.8 | - 8 |
| New York City, N. Y. | 108.2 | 104.5 | 103.2 | 99.7 | 95.2 | 95.7 | 99.3 | 101.9 | 100.7 | 99.2 | 106.0 | - 4 |
| Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va. | 11.9 | 11.9 | 11.4 | 11.0 | 11.0 | 10.9 | 11.2 | 11.5 | (1) | 10.9 | 10.6 | + 8 |
| Oklahoma City, Okla. | 8.9 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.1 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 8.0 | 8.3 | 11.0 | 8.9 | 8.8 | - 6 |
| Omaha, Nebr. | 9.3 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 7.8 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.9 | 7.3 | 16.2 | 6.1 | 8.2 | -11 |
| Phoenix, Ariz. | 8.1 | 8.4 | 8.9 | 9.1 | 8.6 | 8.4 | 8.6 | 8.8 | 7.2 | 9.2 | 9.5 | - 7 |
| Pittsburgh, Pa. | 37.3 | 37.8 | 38.6 | 38.4 | 35.1 | 33.5 | 35.9 | 40.0 | (1) | 36.2 | 32.4 | +23 |
| Portland, Maine | 3.9 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 2.9 | + 7 |
| Portland, Ore. | 14.6 | 14.3 | 13.2 | 12.4 | 11.5 | 11.2 | 11.7 | 12.2 | 13.2 | 12.0 | 11.6 | + 5 |
| Providence, R. I. | 15.2 | 15.7 | 15.3 | 14.6 | 13.3 | 13.0 | 13.9 | 15.0 | 13.3 | 13.1 | 13.0 | +15 |
| Racine, Wis. | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.8 | (1) | (1) | 1.6 | +13 |
| Reno, Nev. | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 2.0 | +10 |
| Richmond, Va. | 11.5 | 12.3 | 11.6 | 11.1 | 10.8 | 10.9 | 11.1 | 11.8 | 11.3 | 10.5 | 9.2 | +28 |
| Rochester, N. Y. | 10.5 | 10.3 | 9.8 | 8.8 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 8.0 | 8.8 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 8.2 | + 7 |
| Salt Lake City, Utah | 8.2 | 8.1 | 7.7 | 6.8 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 7.0 | 7.6 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 5.6 | +36 |
| San Diego, Calif. | 10.1 | 10.0 | 9.7 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.8 | 10.0 | 10.4 | 12.1 | 13.4 | 10.4 | 0 |
| San Francisco-Oakland, Calif. .... | 58.9 | 60.5 | 59.4 | 58.7 | 54.9 | 53.4 | 53.4 | 55.8 | 47.6 | 58.0 | 51.7 | + 8 |

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 38.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas--Continued**

| Area | Number of employees *(in thousands)* | | | | | | | | | | | Percent change, April 1954-55 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 | | | | 1955 | | | | 1952 | 1953 | 1954 | |
| | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | Apr. | Apr. | Apr. | |
| Savannah, Ga. | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 4.5 | 3.1 | +13 |
| Seattle, Wash. | 14.5 | 14.2 | 13.3 | 12.7 | 12.3 | 12.5 | 13.6 | 14.4 | 12.6 | 12.3 | 11.6 | +24 |
| Spokane, Wash. | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 3.9 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.9 | 5.2 | 3.8 | 4.4 | -11 |
| Springfield-Holyoke, Mass. | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 4.3 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 4.1 | 4.4 | + 9 |
| Stamford, Conn. [2] | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.1 | + 6 |
| Syracuse, N. Y. | 7.8 | 7.7 | 7.3 | 6.2 | 5.0 | 4.8 | 5.4 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.2 | 6.3 | - 5 |
| Tacoma, Wash. | 4.2 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 4.4 | 3.4 | +12 |
| Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla. | 13.1 | 13.4 | 13.2 | 12.9 | 12.9 | 12.6 | 12.6 | 12.7 | 11.0 | 11.2 | 11.9 | + 7 |
| Topeka, Kans. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 2.3 | +30 |
| Tucson, Ariz. | 3.1 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 3.1 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 3.5 | -11 |
| Tulsa, Okla. | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 7.4 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 7.5 | 8.2 | 7.2 | +13 |
| Utica-Rome, N. Y. | 3.6 | 3.2 | 2.9 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 2.6 | -35 |
| Washington, D. C. | 40.5 | 40.4 | 39.6 | 38.1 | 36.5 | 35.9 | 37.0 | 39.2 | 39.6 | 36.1 | 36.2 | + 8 |
| Waterbury, Conn. [2] | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 0 |
| Westchester Co., N. Y. | 16.4 | 16.2 | 16.2 | 15.0 | 13.6 | 12.4 | 13.4 | 15.0 | (1) | (1) | 14.9 | + 1 |
| Wheeling-Steubenville, W. Va. | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 3.1 | 3.6 | 3.5 | + 6 |
| Wichita, Kans. | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.2 | 6.7 | 7.1 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 6.3 | +13 |
| Worcester, Mass. | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.4 | -15 |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Not available. [2] Includes a small number of employees in mining. [3] Revised series; not strictly comparable with previously published data.

Chart 14

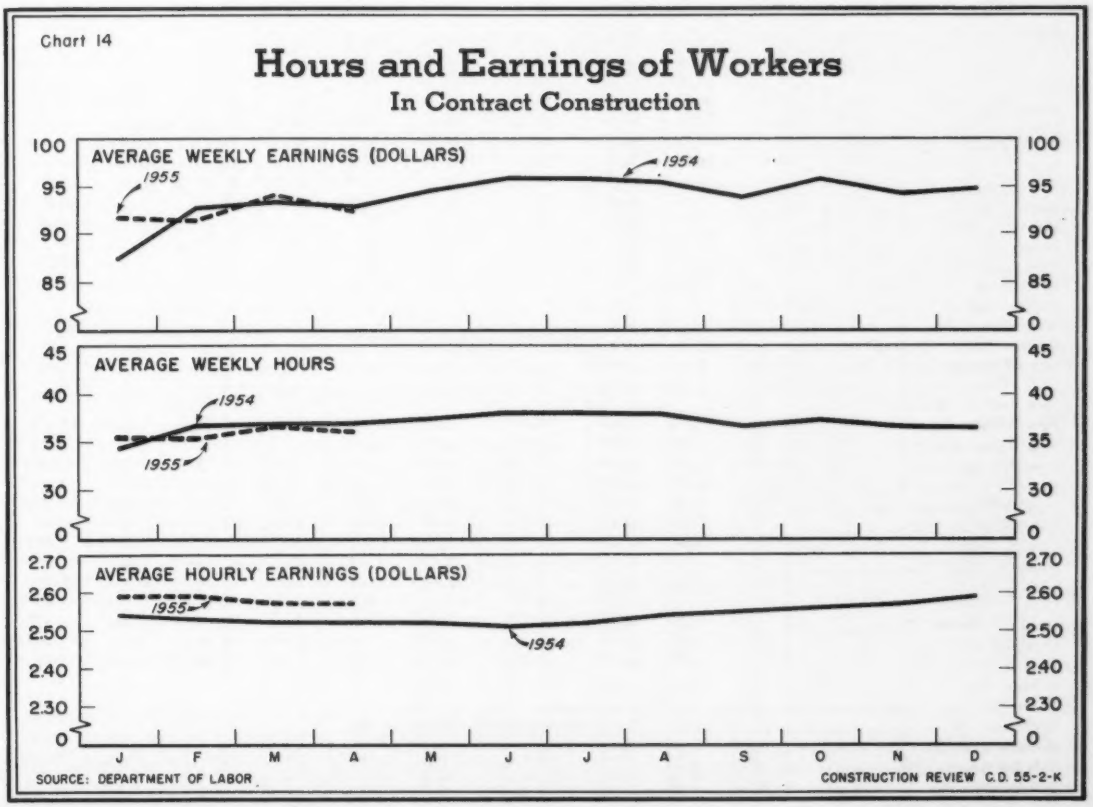

**Table 39.--Contract Construction: Hours and Gross Earnings of Construction Workers**

| Period | All construction | Building construction | | | | | | | Nonbuilding construction | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | All building contractors | General contractors | Special trades contractors | | | | | All nonbuilding | Highway and street | Other nonbuilding |
| | | | | All special trades | Plumbing and heating | Painting and decorating | Electrical work | Other trades | | | |
| **AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year: 1953 | $91.61 | $91.76 | $87.75 | $94.79 | $98.30 | $87.10 | $111.61 | $91.04 | $90.27 | $85.28 | $93.85 |
| 1954 | 93.98 | 94.12 | 89.41 | 98.01 | 102.71 | 90.39 | 112.71 | 93.19 | 92.86 | 86.88 | 97.36 |
| 1954: April | 93.24 | 93.91 | 89.55 | 97.28 | 101.41 | 89.27 | 110.98 | 93.10 | 89.60 | 82.53 | 94.71 |
| May | 94.50 | 94.69 | 89.67 | 98.36 | 101.95 | 89.78 | 113.59 | 94.68 | 94.19 | 88.97 | 97.93 |
| June | 95.63 | 95.72 | 90.04 | 99.70 | 103.41 | 92.04 | 113.39 | 95.89 | 96.56 | 91.81 | 100.28 |
| July | 96.01 | 95.20 | 89.55 | 99.43 | 103.14 | 92.39 | 112.40 | 96.15 | 97.71 | 95.26 | 99.39 |
| August | 96.52 | 96.20 | 91.51 | 99.53 | 103.52 | 92.31 | 113.88 | 96.10 | 97.21 | 93.09 | 100.77 |
| September | 93.84 | 94.32 | 89.00 | 98.10 | 102.92 | 92.57 | 110.08 | 94.08 | 92.97 | 88.75 | 96.33 |
| October | 95.74 | 96.26 | 91.62 | 99.46 | 103.63 | 92.75 | 115.05 | 94.87 | 94.13 | 86.62 | 100.53 |
| November | 94.32 | 94.15 | 89.61 | 97.02 | 100.10 | 90.37 | 112.18 | 93.90 | 94.30 | 88.94 | 98.55 |
| December | 94.28 | 95.40 | 90.83 | 98.28 | 107.20 | 91.12 | 113.30 | 91.77 | 89.47 | 80.51 | 96.08 |
| 1955: January | 91.69 | 93.02 | 88.55 | 96.10 | 105.64 | 86.72 | 113.00 | 88.78 | 85.01 | 76.70 | 90.16 |
| February | 91.43 | 91.96 | 85.59 | 95.55 | 103.40 | 90.05 | 111.25 | 89.24 | 88.31 | 78.79 | 94.11 |
| March | 94.06 | 94.42 | 89.14 | 97.92 | 103.40 | 92.38 | 113.10 | 93.37 | 91.48 | 83.21 | 97.22 |
| April | 92.26 | 93.10 | 87.15 | 97.10 | 102.85 | 90.51 | 112.81 | 92.92 | 89.15 | 81.53 | 95.25 |
| **AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year: 1953 | 37.7 | 37.0 | 37.5 | 36.6 | 38.1 | 34.7 | 39.3 | 35.7 | 40.3 | 41.2 | 39.6 |
| 1954 | 37.0 | 36.2 | 36.2 | 36.3 | 37.9 | 34.5 | 38.6 | 35.3 | 40.2 | 40.6 | 39.9 |
| 1954: April | 37.0 | 36.4 | 36.7 | 36.3 | 37.7 | 34.6 | 38.4 | 35.4 | 39.3 | 39.3 | 39.3 |
| May | 37.5 | 36.7 | 36.6 | 36.7 | 37.9 | 34.8 | 38.9 | 36.0 | 40.6 | 41.0 | 40.3 |
| June | 38.1 | 37.1 | 36.9 | 37.2 | 38.3 | 35.4 | 39.1 | 36.6 | 41.8 | 42.7 | 41.1 |
| July | 38.1 | 36.9 | 36.7 | 37.1 | 38.2 | 35.4 | 38.1 | 36.7 | 42.3 | 43.9 | 40.9 |
| August | 38.0 | 37.0 | 36.9 | 37.0 | 38.2 | 35.1 | 39.0 | 36.4 | 41.9 | 42.7 | 41.3 |
| September | 36.8 | 36.0 | 35.6 | 36.2 | 37.7 | 34.8 | 37.7 | 35.5 | 39.9 | 40.9 | 39.0 |
| October | 37.4 | 36.6 | 36.5 | 36.7 | 38.1 | 35.0 | 39.0 | 35.8 | 40.4 | 40.1 | 40.7 |
| November | 36.7 | 35.8 | 35.7 | 35.8 | 36.8 | 34.1 | 37.9 | 35.3 | 40.3 | 40.8 | 39.9 |
| December | 36.4 | 36.0 | 35.9 | 36.0 | 38.7 | 34.0 | 38.8 | 34.5 | 38.4 | 37.8 | 38.9 |
| 1955: January | 35.4 | 35.1 | 35.0 | 35.2 | 38.0 | 32.6 | 38.7 | 33.5 | 36.8 | 36.7 | 36.8 |
| February | 35.3 | 34.7 | 34.1 | 35.0 | 37.6 | 33.6 | 38.1 | 33.3 | 37.9 | 37.7 | 38.1 |
| March | 36.6 | 35.9 | 35.8 | 36.0 | 37.6 | 34.6 | 38.6 | 35.1 | 39.6 | 40.2 | 39.2 |
| April | 35.9 | 35.4 | 35.0 | 35.7 | 37.4 | 33.9 | 38.5 | 34.8 | 38.1 | 38.1 | 38.1 |
| **AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Year: 1953 | 2.43 | 2.48 | 2.34 | 2.59 | 2.58 | 2.51 | 2.84 | 2.55 | 2.24 | 2.07 | 2.37 |
| 1954 | 2.54 | 2.60 | 2.47 | 2.70 | 2.71 | 2.62 | 2.92 | 2.64 | 2.31 | 2.14 | 2.44 |
| 1954: April | 2.52 | 2.58 | 2.44 | 2.68 | 2.69 | 2.58 | 2.89 | 2.63 | 2.28 | 2.10 | 2.41 |
| May | 2.52 | 2.58 | 2.45 | 2.68 | 2.69 | 2.58 | 2.92 | 2.63 | 2.32 | 2.17 | 2.43 |
| June | 2.51 | 2.58 | 2.44 | 2.68 | 2.70 | 2.60 | 2.90 | 2.62 | 2.31 | 2.15 | 2.44 |
| July | 2.52 | 2.58 | 2.44 | 2.68 | 2.70 | 2.61 | 2.95 | 2.62 | 2.31 | 2.17 | 2.43 |
| August | 2.54 | 2.60 | 2.48 | 2.69 | 2.71 | 2.63 | 2.92 | 2.64 | 2.32 | 2.18 | 2.44 |
| September | 2.55 | 2.62 | 2.50 | 2.71 | 2.73 | 2.66 | 2.92 | 2.65 | 2.33 | 2.17 | 2.47 |
| October | 2.56 | 2.63 | 2.51 | 2.71 | 2.72 | 2.65 | 2.95 | 2.65 | 2.33 | 2.16 | 2.47 |
| November | 2.57 | 2.63 | 2.51 | 2.71 | 2.72 | 2.65 | 2.96 | 2.66 | 2.34 | 2.18 | 2.47 |
| December | 2.59 | 2.65 | 2.53 | 2.73 | 2.77 | 2.68 | 2.92 | 2.66 | 2.33 | 2.13 | 2.47 |
| 1955: January | 2.59 | 2.65 | 2.53 | 2.73 | 2.78 | 2.66 | 2.92 | 2.65 | 2.31 | 2.09 | 2.45 |
| February | 2.59 | 2.65 | 2.51 | 2.73 | 2.75 | 2.68 | 2.92 | 2.68 | 2.33 | 2.09 | 2.47 |
| March | 2.57 | 2.63 | 2.49 | 2.72 | 2.75 | 2.67 | 2.93 | 2.66 | 2.31 | 2.07 | 2.48 |
| April | 2.57 | 2.63 | 2.49 | 2.72 | 2.75 | 2.67 | 2.93 | 2.67 | 2.34 | 2.14 | 2.50 |
| **Percent change, April 1954 to 1955** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Avg. wkly. earnings | -1.1 | -0.9 | -2.7 | -0.2 | +1.4 | +1.4 | +1.6 | -0.2 | -0.5 | -1.2 | +0.6 |
| Avg. wkly. hours | -3.0 | -2.7 | -4.6 | -1.7 | - .8 | -2.0 | + .3 | -1.7 | -3.1 | -3.1 | -3.1 |
| Avg. hrly. earnings | +2.0 | +1.9 | +2.0 | +1.5 | +2.2 | +3.5 | +1.4 | +1.5 | +2.6 | +1.9 | +3.7 |

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 40.--Registered Apprentices in the Building Trades, by State and Territory, and Trade

| State and territory | Number of apprentices registered and active at end of first quarter [1] | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1953 | 1954 | 1955 |
| **Total** | **[2] 88,679** | **[3] 88,798** | **[2] [3] 91,227** |
| Alabama | 1,454 | 1,427 | 1,118 |
| Alaska | 97 | 171 | 230 |
| Arizona | 810 | 960 | 1,105 |
| Arkansas | 471 | 559 | 487 |
| California | 11,902 | 11,460 | 11,505 |
| Colorado | 1,011 | 994 | 1,044 |
| Connecticut | 1,972 | (4) | (4) |
| Delaware | 124 | 152 | 186 |
| District of Columbia | 1,129 | 1,164 | 1,131 |
| Florida | 2,299 | 2,397 | 2,563 |
| Georgia | 2,305 | 2,717 | 2,018 |
| Hawaii | 292 | 337 | 290 |
| Idaho | 288 | 273 | 239 |
| Illinois | 5,985 | 6,079 | 7,211 |
| Indiana | 1,325 | 1,339 | 1,601 |
| Iowa | 893 | 923 | 969 |
| Kansas | 450 | 503 | 655 |
| Kentucky | 1,280 | 1,179 | 1,176 |
| Louisiana | 1,734 | 1,754 | 1,683 |
| Maine | 101 | 185 | 231 |
| Maryland | 1,250 | 1,370 | 1,260 |
| Massachusetts | 2,357 | 2,206 | 2,306 |
| Michigan | 3,262 | 3,481 | 4,167 |
| Minnesota | 2,373 | 2,440 | 2,458 |
| Mississippi | 455 | 430 | 358 |
| Missouri | 1,919 | 2,070 | 2,299 |
| Montana | 407 | 477 | 498 |
| Nebraska | 517 | 529 | 519 |
| Nevada | 180 | 187 | 285 |
| New Hampshire | 102 | 91 | 117 |
| New Jersey | 2,307 | 1,934 | 2,050 |
| New Mexico | 533 | 468 | 516 |
| New York | (4) | 8,969 | (4) |
| North Carolina | 1,779 | 1,757 | 1,521 |
| North Dakota | 42 | 47 | 88 |
| Ohio | 6,196 | 6,511 | 6,997 |
| Oklahoma | 867 | 772 | 604 |
| Oregon | 916 | 824 | 947 |
| Pennsylvania | 3,387 | 3,486 | 3,721 |
| Rhode Island | 324 | 348 | 450 |
| South Carolina | 981 | 963 | 622 |
| South Dakota | 79 | 103 | 143 |
| Tennessee | 2,243 | 2,106 | 1,835 |
| Texas | 4,380 | 4,063 | 4,120 |
| Utah | 626 | 634 | 577 |
| Vermont | 106 | 117 | 82 |
| Virginia | 1,527 | 1,320 | 1,252 |
| Washington | 1,936 | 1,736 | 2,152 |
| West Virginia | 392 | 486 | 460 |
| Wisconsin | 2,083 | 2,110 | 2,226 |
| Wyoming | 262 | 226 | 222 |

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 40.--Registered Apprentices in the Building Trades, by State and Territory, and Trade--Continued**

| State and territory | Number of apprentices registered and active at end of first quarter, selected trades | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1954 [3] | | | | | | 1955 [2] [3] | | | | | |
| | Carpenter | Electrician | Painter and paperhanger | Plumber and pipefitter | Sheet metal worker | Trowel trades [5] | Carpenter | Electrician | Painter and paperhanger | Plumber and pipefitter | Sheet metal worker | Trowel trades [5] |
| **Total** | **23,107** | **16,060** | **3,568** | **18,622** | **9,068** | **11,791** | **23,150** | **15,998** | **3,982** | **19,980** | **9,676** | **11,411** |
| Alabama | 484 | 203 | 107 | 221 | 106 | 148 | 363 | 167 | 40 | 200 | 135 | 101 |
| Alaska | 63 | 37 | 1 | 49 | 6 | 0 | 97 | 33 | 8 | 57 | 8 | 0 |
| Arizona | 309 | 245 | 88 | 121 | 86 | 56 | 393 | 279 | 89 | 143 | 79 | 58 |
| Arkansas | 164 | 65 | 56 | 75 | 14 | 29 | 108 | 61 | 35 | 94 | 23 | 27 |
| California | 4,288 | 1,299 | 608 | 2,171 | 1,295 | 788 | 4,155 | 1,247 | 818 | 2,251 | 1,412 | 691 |
| Colorado | 192 | 119 | 23 | 186 | 198 | 118 | 222 | 106 | 40 | 201 | 206 | 115 |
| Connecticut | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) |
| Delaware | 35 | 26 | 19 | 31 | 20 | 17 | 38 | 24 | 19 | 38 | 29 | 31 |
| Dist. of Col. | 203 | 210 | 28 | 242 | 113 | 178 | 146 | 203 | 46 | 263 | 79 | 196 |
| Florida | 633 | 843 | 34 | 375 | 185 | 229 | 657 | 878 | 42 | 363 | 219 | 238 |
| Georgia | 491 | 886 | 82 | 533 | 185 | 206 | 253 | 635 | 41 | 404 | 183 | 164 |
| Hawaii | 97 | 94 | 13 | 75 | 37 | 10 | 79 | 83 | 7 | 66 | 47 | 1 |
| Idaho | 73 | 68 | 10 | 44 | 45 | 17 | 61 | 55 | 15 | 40 | 42 | 11 |
| Illinois | 1,118 | 1,219 | 295 | 1,329 | 499 | 1,396 | 1,338 | 1,351 | 351 | 1,749 | 576 | 1,467 |
| Indiana | 227 | 262 | 70 | 216 | 196 | 346 | 339 | 289 | 86 | 255 | 232 | 358 |
| Iowa | 268 | 113 | 50 | 216 | 114 | 104 | 279 | 126 | 56 | 220 | 120 | 102 |
| Kansas | 138 | 80 | 17 | 92 | 63 | 80 | 189 | 89 | 31 | 112 | 75 | 117 |
| Kentucky | 279 | 266 | 28 | 334 | 127 | 121 | 256 | 299 | 31 | 339 | 121 | 107 |
| Louisiana | 432 | 386 | 42 | 383 | 118 | 205 | 386 | 391 | 50 | 340 | 124 | 217 |
| Maine | 11 | 79 | 0 | 55 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 77 | 1 | 70 | 28 | 10 |
| Maryland | 294 | 385 | 39 | 308 | 80 | 229 | 219 | 318 | 43 | 295 | 84 | 258 |
| Massachusetts | 375 | 420 | 42 | 619 | 213 | 314 | 383 | 416 | 51 | 708 | 237 | 260 |
| Michigan | 832 | 559 | 98 | 680 | 483 | 564 | 1,011 | 607 | 179 | 737 | 618 | 604 |
| Minnesota | 445 | 523 | 166 | 563 | 351 | 271 | 461 | 518 | 139 | 577 | 350 | 251 |
| Mississippi | 154 | 122 | 0 | 85 | 29 | 32 | 81 | 96 | 0 | 96 | 30 | 28 |
| Missouri | 657 | 237 | 119 | 374 | 283 | 272 | 700 | 296 | 143 | 420 | 316 | 268 |
| Montana | 206 | 75 | 38 | 73 | 48 | 24 | 195 | 83 | 40 | 95 | 52 | 18 |
| Nebraska | 127 | 78 | 25 | 86 | 84 | 91 | 134 | 90 | 24 | 101 | 65 | 62 |
| Nevada | 54 | 89 | 1 | 30 | 9 | 0 | 75 | 116 | 10 | 37 | 42 | 0 |
| New Hampshire | 25 | 2 | 0 | 62 | 0 | 2 | 45 | 3 | 0 | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| New Jersey | 594 | 173 | 25 | 415 | 271 | 364 | 618 | 209 | 25 | 486 | 242 | 344 |
| New Mexico | 126 | 161 | 24 | 70 | 19 | 19 | 133 | 191 | 29 | 62 | 29 | 14 |
| New York | 2,530 | 1,354 | 200 | 1,504 | 773 | 1,965 | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) | (4) |
| North Carolina | 307 | 502 | 48 | 376 | 184 | 267 | 261 | 425 | 38 | 325 | 181 | 197 |
| North Dakota | 8 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 0 | 20 | 14 | 20 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 20 |
| Ohio | 1,343 | 946 | 228 | 1,591 | 752 | 1,155 | 1,407 | 1,014 | 207 | 1,871 | 799 | 1,066 |
| Oklahoma | 200 | 116 | 22 | 139 | 107 | 64 | 157 | 75 | 17 | 100 | 99 | 50 |
| Oregon | 174 | 226 | 42 | 144 | 148 | 47 | 197 | 239 | 58 | 148 | 168 | 70 |
| Pennsylvania | 902 | 434 | 54 | 1,127 | 274 | 462 | 898 | 531 | 59 | 1,287 | 276 | 454 |
| Rhode Island | 140 | 46 | 17 | 93 | 18 | 28 | 157 | 55 | 21 | 146 | 37 | 24 |
| South Carolina | 106 | 343 | 9 | 265 | 40 | 127 | 63 | 179 | 5 | 198 | 55 | 102 |
| South Dakota | 32 | 20 | 3 | 29 | 12 | 4 | 42 | 19 | 7 | 37 | 13 | 10 |
| Tennessee | 679 | 558 | 88 | 291 | 150 | 146 | 544 | 487 | 80 | 321 | 126 | 144 |
| Texas | 921 | 858 | 220 | 946 | 302 | 400 | 974 | 848 | 250 | 1,041 | 324 | 354 |
| Utah | 211 | 63 | 50 | 100 | 90 | 60 | 185 | 76 | 42 | 92 | 94 | 37 |
| Vermont | 29 | 7 | 1 | 49 | 5 | 6 | 21 | 10 | 0 | 38 | 6 | 4 |
| Virginia | 208 | 337 | 56 | 321 | 149 | 133 | 154 | 340 | 47 | 315 | 159 | 129 |
| Washington | 621 | 334 | 101 | 205 | 175 | 127 | 829 | 337 | 125 | 301 | 163 | 145 |
| West Virginia | 95 | 94 | 17 | 141 | 55 | 37 | 93 | 93 | 14 | 125 | 64 | 23 |
| Wisconsin | 471 | 299 | 128 | 643 | 261 | 237 | 466 | 318 | 162 | 698 | 269 | 232 |
| Wyoming | 82 | 33 | 9 | 38 | 38 | 21 | 102 | 25 | 5 | 34 | 34 | 18 |

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes data for trades not shown separately. [2] Totals include an estimate for New York. [3] Totals include an estimate for Connecticut. [4] Data not available. [5] Covers brick, stone, and tile workers; cement masons; and plasterers.

**VA Loans for Farm Housing.** (Public Law 84, approved June 16, 1955.)

This law amends the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (by adding a new subsection (c) to section 501) to give veterans buying farm homes the same Government loan guarantees as those now applying to urban residential property. P.L. 84 increases the present maximum guaranty of 50 percent but not over $4,000, to 60 percent but not over $7,500, on the following types of loans:

(1) For the purchase of a farm on which there is a farm residence to be occupied by the veteran as his home. In the case of a veteran buying an improved farm, the guaranty would apply not only to the purchase of the farm and residence, but also to all other buildings which are considered a part of the realty.

(2) For the construction on land owned by the veteran of a farm residence to be occupied by him as his home. This would cover the farm house and necessary appurtenances, such as appliances, utilities, a well, septic tank system, toolshed, garage, and landscaping. In the event there is an indebtedness which is secured by a lien against the land owned by the veteran, the proceeds of the GI loan for the construction of the residence may be used also to liquidate that lien, if the indebtedness does not exceed the reasonable value of the land. This provides a veteran in rural areas with the same facilities under the law as the veteran who owns or has an equity in a city lot on which he wishes to build a home.

(3) For the repair, alteration, or improvement of a farm residence owned by the veteran and occupied by him as his home. Such repairs, alterations, and improvements would be subject to the same requirement of protecting or improving the basic livability or the utility of the property as is presently applicable to urban residences.

The guaranty on GI loans for the construction of barns, silos, or other outbuildings, or for the repair of farm buildings other than the residence itself, will remain the same--50 percent of the loan with a maximum guaranty of $4,000. The present maximum of 50 percent, but not to exceed $2,000, would be continued in connection with loans for non-real-estate items.

**Extension of VA Direct Loan Authority.** (Public Law 88, approved June 21, 1955.)

This law continues and expands the direct loan authority of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs under title III of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, as follows:

(1) The termination date for the direct loan program is extended for 2 years until June 30, 1957. Additional funds, up to $150 million each year, are made available for financing the program, and the quarterly ceiling on the total amount of direct lending is raised from $37.5 million to $50 million.

(2) Farm and city properties are placed on a parity in the direct-loan program, as well as under the VA-guaranty program, by permitting direct loans to be made for all of the purposes outlined above in P.L. 84 of the current session. Previously, a VA direct loan could be used only to purchase or construct a nonfarm home or to construct or improve (but not to buy) a farmhouse.

(3) Eligible veterans who have used part but not all of their guaranty entitlement, and who live in areas where private financing is not available for VA-guaranteed loans, are permitted to receive benefits under the direct-loan program. The maximum principal amount of such a direct loan, however, would be reduced from the present $10,000 limitation to an amount which bears the same ratio to $10,000 as the amount of the guaranty to which the veteran is entitled at the time the loan is made bears to $7,500. For example, the direct loan to a veteran who has used $3,750 (one-half) of his $7,500 guaranty entitlement could not exceed $5,000. No veteran would be entitled to loans aggregating more than $10,000.

Furthermore, the charge against the guaranty entitlement of the veteran would be increased from the present maximum of 60 percent of the loan, but not over $7,500, to an amount which bears the same ratio to $7,500 as the amount of the loan bears to $10,000. Thus, a veteran obtaining a $10,000 direct loan would have a $7,500 charge against his entitlement, whereas, under the guaranteed home-loan program, a $10,000 loan would involve an entitlement charge of only $6,000.

**Museum of History and Technology for the Smithsonian Institution.** (Public Law 106, approved June 28, 1955.)

This law authorizes and directs the regents of the Smithsonian Institution to plan and have constructed in the District of Columbia, under the direction of the Administrator of General Services Administration, a building and all necessary appurtenances, for use as a national Museum of History and Technology. A joint congressional committee will advise with the regents in the planning and construction of the building and will report to the Congress from time to time on the progress of the building.

The law also authorizes the appropriation of such sums as are necessary, but not more than $36 million, to carry out the planning and construction work.

**Extention of Saline Water Research Program.** (Public Law 111, approved June 29, 1955.)

This law increases (from $2,000,000 to $10,000,000) the amount authorized for the Federal Government's program for research into ways to turn salt and brackish water into fresh water, so that the Secretary of the Interior may expedite solution of the problems involved, partly through the building of pilot plants. It also extends the term of the program, which was inaugurated by the Act of July 3, 1952 (42 U.S.C., secs., 1955 ff.), through fiscal year 1963. P.L. 111 requires that the saline-water research activities be conducted with the full cooperation of the Atomic Energy Commission and the Civil Defense Administration.

**Temporary Extension of Certain Housing Programs.** (Public Law 119, approved June 30, 1955.)

This law continues temporarily certain programs of the Housing and Home Finance Agency, which were due to expire on June 30 or July 1, 1955, to allow time for enactment of general housing legislation now pending in the Congress. The following 4 programs were extended for 1 month:

(1) The home improvement and modernization insurance program under title I of the National Housing Act, administered by the Federal Housing Administration (from July 1 to August 1, 1955).

(2) The military housing insurance program under title VIII of the National Housing Act, also administered by the Federal Housing Administration (from June 30 to July 31, 1955).

(3) The defense housing and community facilities program (Defense Housing and Community Facilities and Services Act of 1951), administered by the Community Facilities Administration and the Federal Housing Administration (from July 1 to August 1, 1955).

(4) The low-rent public housing program under the United States Housing Act of 1937, administered by the Public Housing Administration (from June 30 to August 1, 1955).

**Completion of Inter-American Highway.** (Public Law 129, approved July 1, 1955.)

This law provides basic statutory authority for accelerating the completion of the Inter-American Highway within 3 years instead of 6 years as formerly planned. It makes the authorizations contained in section 7 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1954 ($8 million for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 1957, 1958, and 1959) immediately available for appropriation, and authorizes an additional sum of $25,730,000, also to be immediately available for appropriation, all sums to remain available until expended. Since the initiation of the project in 1934, Congress has appropriated funds in the amount of $53,723,000 through fiscal year 1955. In addition, $25,250,000 was appropriated in P.L. 121, 84th Congress. (See below.)

When completed, the Inter-American Highway will provide an all-weather road extending from the Mexican border at Laredo, Tex., through the Central American Republics and Panama to the Canal Zone. P.L. 129 will affect only incompleted links in Central American countries and Panama, the Republic of Mexico having completed its share of the highway some time ago, without financial assistance from the United States.

**Loans to Local Public Agencies for Constructing Irrigation Distribution Systems in Connection with Federal Reclamation Projects.** (Public Law 130, approved July 4, 1955.)

This law permits local water users' organizations, rather than the Bureau of Reclamation, to act as the construction agency for irrigation distribution systems authorized as a part of Federal reclamation projects. It authorizes the Secretary of Interior to approve the plans and specifications for the facilities to be constructed, and to lend money appropriated for such distribution systems, to any irrigation district or other public agency, in an amount equal to the estimated construction cost of the system.

All loans are to be made contingent upon a finding by the Secretary that they can be returned to the Federal Government in accordance with the repayment provisions of section 9(d) of the Reclamation Project Act of August 4, 1939, and upon a showing that the district or agency already holds or can acquire all lands and interests in land necessary for the construction. The district or agency would also be required to contribute a portion of the construction cost (not over 10 percent) in money or materials, labor, lands, or interests in land.

## Appropriation Acts That Provide for Construction and Housing

**Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1956.** (Public Law 78, approved June 16, 1955.)

Major construction items contained in this law are as follows:

*Bureau of Indian Affairs.* $7,979,000 for irrigation and power systems, buildings, utilities, roads, trails, and other facilities; and $7,000,000 for Indian roads and public lands highways authorized under section 6 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1954.

*Forest Service.* $24,000,000 for forest roads and trails.

*National Park Service.* $5,425,000 for roads, trails, parkways, buildings, utilities, and other physical facilities, including land acquisition and water rights; and $19,654,000 for forest highway work authorized under section 6 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1954.

*Office of Territories.* $13,400,000 for construction in Alaska, distributed as follows: $6,300,000 for roads; $4,100,000 for the Alaska Railroad; and $3,000,000 for public works.

**Independent Office Appropriation Act, 1956.** (Public Law 112, approved June 30, 1955.)

The following major construction and housing items appear in this law:

*Disaster relief.* $3,500,000.

*General Services Administration.* $25,000,000 for repair, improvement, and equipment of federally owned buildings outside of the District of Columbia; $9,700,000 for payment of obligations on construction work at the Hospital Center in the District of Columbia, previously authorized in the Independent Offices Appropriation Act, 1949; and $7,000,000 for repairs to Government buildings in the Washington area. Funds now authorized for lease-purchase contracts are continued available during fiscal year 1956.

*Housing and Home Finance Agency.* $81,750,000 for the payment of annual contributions to local public housing authorities for operating low-rent public housing projects; $50,000,000 for payment of capital grants for slum clearance and urban renewal; $3,000,000 for advances to municipalities and other public agencies to maintain a continuing reserve of planned public works and for surveying the status and current volume of advanced planning among such agencies; and $2,000,000 for urban planning grants.

*National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.* $12,565,000 for construction and equipment at laboratories and research stations.

*Veterans Administration.* $30,000,000 for planning and for extending hospital and domiciliary facilities; and $3,900,000 for major alterations, improvements, and repairs to regional offices, supply depots, and hospital and domiciliary facilities.

**Department of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1956.** (Public Law 121, approved June 30, 1955.)

This law provides funds for the following major construction items:

*Civil Aeronautics Administration.* An additional $16,000,000 for the establishment and improvement of air-navigation facilities, including site acquisition, and $7,000,000 for payment of previously authorized obligations; $20,000,000 for grants-in-aid for continuance of the Federal-aid airport program, and $7,500,000 to take care of airport-project contracts already authorized under the Federal Airport Act.

*Bureau of Public Roads.* $640,000,000 for federally aided highway systems; $21,750,000 for forest highways; and $25,250,000 for completion of the Inter-American Highway (see P.L. 129, above).

*Weather Bureau.* $7,500,000 for establishment of meteorological facilities.